Pinnock's Catechisms.

A CATECHISM

OF

SACRED GEOGRAPHY;

BEING A

FAMILIAR DESCRIPTION

OF SUCH

COUNTRIES, CITIES, & MINOR PLACES,

AS ARE MENTIONED

IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES;

WITH THE

Necsseary Historical Elucidations.

AND IN WHICH THE WORDS ARE ACCENTED FOR THE MORE EASY ATTAINMENT OF A CORRECT PRONUNCIATION OF SCRIPTURE PROPER NAMES.

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PREFACE.

TO those who think that no period is too early for a child to be made acquainted with the Bible, the following Catechism must prove acceptable; since the most difficult parts of that Sacred Volume are rendered not only more easy to be understood by it, but it throws an interest over that which, in other respects, might be deemed too dry to excite the attention of youth. And when we take into consideration, how necessary a knowledge of geography is to the study of history in general, the same necessity will be found to exist in reading the historical portion of the Scriptures; otherwise, a confusion of places and circumstances will unavoidably arise, operating as a bar to a child's comprehension of the most material facts. It follows, therefore, as a natural deduction from such reasons, that no apology is wanting for thus endeavouring to simplify and accelerate the study of Sacred Geography.

CATECHISM

OF

SACRED GEOGRAPHY.

1358

Question. WHAT are we to understand by Sacred Geography.

Answer. By Sacred Geography is meant, a description of those countries, cities, towns, and other places, which are mentioned in the Old and New Testament.

Q. In what part of the world are most of these countries situated?

A. The greater part of these countries are situated in Asia and Africa.

Q. Enumerate the principal countries in which the most remarkable events mentioned in the Scriptures took place.

A. The principal countries mentioned in the Scriptures are, Arme'nia, Me'dia, A'sia Mi'nor, E'gypt, Ara'bia, Ca'naan or Jude'a, Phœni'cia, A'ram or Syr'ia, Mesopota'mia, Assyr'ia, Babylo'nia, E'lam or Per'sia, and Cy'prus.

CHAPTER I.

Armenia.

Q. GIVE some account of Arme'nia.

A. Arme'nia was bounded on the south by Mount Taurus, separating it from Mesopota'mia;

on the east by Me'dia, on the north by Ibe'ria and Alba'nia; but on the west its boundary is not accurately known. It was divided into Arme'nia the Greater, and Arme'nia the Less.

Q. What remarkable occurrence is noticed in Scripture, as having taken place in Arme'nia.

A. On the mountains of Ar'arat in this country, the ark rested after the Flood, and here the descendants of Noah settled for some time, till they multiplied and spread southward towards the land of Shi'nar. Many learned men suppose, that in Arme'nia the garden of E'den was situated.

Q. Who were the immediate descendants of Noah?

A. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth. Of these, though last mentioned, Ja'pheth was the eldest, and Ham the youngest.

Q. Who were the sons of Ja'pheth?

A. The sons of Ja'pheth were Go'mer, Ma'gog, Mada'i, Ja'van, Tu'bal, Me'shech and Ti'ras.

Q. In what parts of the world did the descendants of these patriarchs settle?

A. Go'mer appears to have settled north-west of Arme'nia, to the south of the Eux'ine sea; his descendants passed from thence into Europe. Ma'gog inhabited the country north of Arme'nia, and was the progenitor of the Scythians: Mada'i chose that part of Asia which lies to the south of the Caspian sea, and from him took the name of Me'dia.

Q. Where did the other sons of Ja'pheth settle?

A. Ja'van, on quitting Arme'nia, chose to take up his residence in Asia Minor, from whence his descendants migrated to Greece. Tu'bal and

Me'shech settled between the Cas'pian and Eux'ine seas, from whence colonies were sent out as far north as Muscovy. From Ti'ras descended the Thra'cians who resided in that part of Europe which borders on the Propon'tis or sea of Mar'mora.

Q. How many sons had Shem ?

A. Shem had five sons, E'lam, A'shur, Arphax'ad, Lud and A'ram.

Q. What parts of the world were peopled by these ?

A. Elam settled in the southern part of the country, between the Caspian sea and the Persian gulf, and from him it was called Elam, afterwards Persia. By A'shur, the tract east of the Ti'gris, called from him Assyr'ia, was settled. To Arphax'ad was allotted the plain of Shinar and the country of Eden. Of Lud we know nothing certain. The possession of A'ram lay to the north of A'shur, and west of the Caspian sea. One of his sons named Uz built the city of Damas'cus.

Q. Name the sons of Ham.

A. The sons of Ham were Cush, Miz'raim, Phut, and Ca'naan.

Q. Where did these patriarchs settle?

A. Cush settled in Ara'bia, and from him the people of that extensive region originally descended, though many of its present inhabitants owe their origin to Ish'mael, descended from Arphax'ad. Miz'raim chose Egypt, and his posterity spread into Ethio'pia, Lib'ya, and other parts of Africa; Canaan possessed himself of the country afterwards known by his name, and from which his descendants were driven out by the Israelites.

CHAP. II.

Media.

Q. WHAT is the situation of Me'dia?

A. Me'dia was situated to the north of Persia, and is frequently mentioned in Scripture in conjunction with it, because it was for a long time under one prince.

Q. Did it contain any celebrated cities?

A. Ecbata'na, its capital, built by Semir'amis, the wife of Ninus, and enlarged and beautified by succeeding princes, was a noble city, little inferior to Nin'eveh or Bab'ylon. It was the summer residence of the kings of Persia, whose palace here was a stately structure, a mile in compass; many of whose beams were of silver, and others of cedar overlaid with gold.

Q. Are there any other cities of Me'dia mentioned in Scripture?

A. Yes; mention is made in the book of To'bit, of Ra'ges, a city of Me'dia, to which that good man sent his son Tobi'as to obtain payment of a sum of money due to him. At Ecbata'na, Tobi'as visited a kinsman named Ragu'el, and married his daughter.

Q. What farther may be observed of Me'dia?

A. To Me'dia the ten tribes of Israel were carried captive by Tig'lath-Pile'ser and Shalmane'zer, and from thence they never returned to their own country, but were scattered over the face of the whole earth.

CHAP. III.

Asia Minor.

Q. Of what countries was Asia Minor composed?

A. Asia Minor, which lies between the Euxine or Black sea and the Mediterra'nean, contained the provinces of Bithyn'ia, Pon'tus, Gala'tia, Cappado'cia, Cili''cia, Pamphyl'ia, Pisid'ia, Lycao'nia, Phry''gia, Mys'ia, Tro'as, Lyd'ia, Io'nia, Ca'ria and Ly'cia.

Q. What cities of this extensive country are mentioned in the Scriptures?

A. Eph'esus, Smyr'na, Per'gamus, Thyati'ra, Sar'dis, Philadel'phia, Laodice'a, Mile'tus, Per'ga and Tar'sus.

Q. Describe Ephesus.

A. Eph'esus, now Aiso'luc, the capital of Io'nia, was once famous for a most magnificent temple of Dian'a, to the building of which all the provinces of Asia contributed, and its erection occupied two hundred years. It was burnt by Eros'tratus, on the night that Alexander the Great was born.

Q. What happened at Ephesus that requires to be mentioned here?

A. The apostle Paul visited and preached the Gospel there, but Deme'trius and others interested in the worship of Dian'a, drove him thence. While a prisoner at Rome he addressed an admirable epistle to the church at Ephesus. St. John died in this city, and Timothy was its first bishop.

Q. What is the present state of Ephesus?

A. Ephesus at present consists principally of the low and mean habitations of herdsmen and farmers, composed partly of earth, and partly of the ruins of ancient noble structures. Two edifices, the castle, and the church of St. John, give some idea of its former magnificence, but they are both in a state of decay*.

Q. Is not Smyr'na still a flourishing city?

A. Yes; but modern Smyr'na does not stand on the site of the ancient, the latter having been on a high hill; this situation however rendering it subject to earthquakes, and inconvenient for trade, it was gradually removed, and now suffers more from the pestiferous exhalations from the surrounding fens, than it did occasionally from the convulsions of nature.

Q. What may be observed of modern Smyrna?

A. Smyrna is a sea-port on the Levant, and an important, commercial city, containing a population of about 150,000 inhabitants. It is the metropolis of Nato'lia, and has a noble aqueduct, numerous fountains, elegant bazars†, and handsome streets. Christianity is professed by a great proportion of its inhabitants.

Q. Give some account of Per'gamus.

A. Per'gamus, the third of the seven churches, and once a royal city, till bequeathed to the Romans by At'talus, lies about sixty miles north of Smyrna; the city itself is hastening to decay, through the indolence of the inhabitants, who pre-

* Though Ephesus was one of the seven churches of Asia, mentioned in the Revelations, and Christianity flourished there, not one Christian family now resides in it.

† Bazars are covered markets for all sorts of rich goods.

fer a life of plunder and robbery, to the cultivation of the delightful and fruitful country that lies around it.

Q. Is Thyati′ra still in existence?

A. Yes; the once spacious and magnificent city of Thyati′ra still exists under the name of Akhi′sar between Per′gamus and Sar′dis. It is still a flourishing place, watered by rivulets running through every street; the air is wholesome, and the country around rich and delightful.

Q. What deserves notice of Sar′dis?

A. Sar′dis, once the capital of Lyd′ia, is now a mean place, consisting of the humble cottages of shepherds, intermingled with the vestiges of its ancient magnificence. From the castle, standing on a lofty hill, is an extensive and pleasant prospect, enlivened by the classic Pacto′lus winding through the plain. Its golden sands have however disappeared.

Q. Give a brief account of Philadel′phia.

A. Philadel′phia, where was the sixth of the seven churches of Asia, lies about twenty-seven miles south-east from Sardis, and is called Ali-shakir or Alak-shehr. Being inhabited principally by Greeks, it has no less than twelve churches; but nothing else worthy of notice, except a wall of men's bones, erected by a prince who took the city, after a dreadful slaughter of the besieged.

Q. Does Laodice′a still exist?

A. No; Laodice′a, with its neighbours Colos′se and Hierap′olis, was destroyed by an earthquake in the reign of Nero, about two years after St. Paul wrote his epistle to the Colos′sians. Its ruins, called by the Turks Eski-hisar or Old Castle, give

reason to suppose that it was a noble city. Of these, three extensive amphitheatres and a circus may still be traced.

Q. Describe Mile'tus.

A. Mile'tus, celebrated as the birth-place of Tha'les, and as the city to which St. Paul sent for the elders of Ephesus, is now called Melas; though once a noble city, it is now a poor mean place.

Q. Give some particulars of Per'ga.

A. Per'ga, now Kara-hisar, was a city of Pamphyl'ia, celebrated in Scripture as the place from whence John and Mark departed, which occasioned the contention between Paul and Bar'nabas. It stands on a rock, 180 miles east by north of Smyrna, and is still a place of some trade.

Q. What may be observed of Tar'sus.

A. Tar'sus or Tar'shish, called by the Turks Teras'so, was the native place of St. Paul; and in the time of the Romans, the metropolis of Cili''cia, and a Roman colony: it was famous for the learning and politeness of its inhabitants, but is now a place of little importance*.

Q. What other cities and towns of Asia Minor belong to Scripture Geography?

A. An'tioch in Pisid'ia, a city of some note. Ly'stra, Der'be, and Ico'nium, in Lycao'nia; the last mentioned, called at present Cogni, is still a considerable place, and the residence of a Turkish Pasha.

Q. Are there not some islands of Asia Minor mentioned in the Scriptures?

* To this place Jonah would have fled had he not been prevented by the tempest.

A. Yes; such as Coös, now Lango, the birthplace of Hippoc'rates and Apel'les; and Rhodes celebrated for its Colossus, or brazen statue of Apollo, which was so large, that ships sailed between its legs as it stood across the harbour.

CHAP. IV.

Egypt.

Q. What is E'gypt?

A. E'gypt is an extensive country, situated at the north-eastern extremity of Africa, and separated from Asia by the Red sea, except on the north, where it communicates with it by the Isthmus of Su'ez. In Scripture it is called the land of Miz'raim, from having been peopled by that patriarch.

Q. Give a general description of the country.

A. Through the midst of Egypt runs the river Nile, from north to south, which annually overflowing its banks, diffuses an amazing fertility over the face of the country. From this granary of the world, Rome once drew its principal supply of grain, as Constantinople does in the present day.

Q. For what was ancient Egypt remarkable besides?

A. Ancient Egypt was likewise remarkable as the country from whence the rest of the world received the first rays of civilization, learning, and science. Its inhabitants are said to have invented geometry, arithmetic, astronomy, physic, &c.

Q. What cities and towns of Egypt are mentioned in the Scriptures?

A. The Scriptures speak of Zo'an or Ta'nis,

Noph or Mem'phis, Path'ros, No, Sye'ne, Mig'dol, Sin, On, Ram'eses, and Tah'panhes.

Q. Describe Zo'an.

A. Zo'an or Tan'is, now called San, situated on one of the eastern branches of the Nile, was a very ancient city, built seven years after the foundation of He'bron*. In the time of Moses it was the capital of Egypt, and the scene of all the miracles wrought for the deliverance of the Israelites.

Q. What may be observed of Noph?

A. Noph, afterwards called Mem'phis, became, on the decay of Zo'an, the capital of Egypt. It stood a little above the division of the Nile into several branches, on the right bank of that river.

Q. For what was Mem'phis most celebrated?

A. Noph or Mem'phis was celebrated for a noble temple of Sera'pis, an Egyptian idol, and for numerous temples dedicated to other fabulous deities; but its fame rests principally on those astonishing structures the Pyramids in its vicinity, which still remain monuments of the vanity of their founders.

Q. What are the Pyramids?

A. The Pyramids are vast structures of stone, square at the bottom, but tapering to a point. The base of the largest is said to cover eleven acres of ground, and it is nearly five hundred feet perpendicular height†.

Q. Is there not another gigantic monument in this plain?

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* Numbers xiii. 22.

† Authors differ exceedingly respecting the height of the Pyramids.

A. Yes; near the largest Pyramid is the gigantic statue of a sphinx, a fabulous monster, with the head and breasts of a woman, and the body of a lion; it is cut from the solid rock, but every part except the head and neck, lies buried in the sand.

Q. Are not these of vast dimensions?

A. Yes; the head is twenty-six feet high, but exceedingly well proportioned, and the countenance pleasing: from the ear to the chin is fifteen feet.

Q. What city stands on or near the site of Memphis or Noph?

A. Grand Cairo is situated on the opposite or east bank of the Nile, and is divided into the old and new town. In the castle, which is built on a rock, they shew what are called Joseph's-hall, his prison, and his well.

Q. Is not this well very remarkable?

A. This well is very large, and has a winding stair-case, by which persons may descend with ease and safety two hundred and ninety-one feet; at this depth there is a wheel turned by oxen, by which the water is raised from the lower well, which is not so large.

Q. What farther may be observed of Cairo?

A. At Old Cairo are shewn the granaries in which the patriarch Joseph laid up the corn for the years of famine, and the house where Joseph and Mary resided with the infant Saviour when they fled into Egypt from the cruelty of Herod.

Q. Was Path'ros a place of note?

A. Path'ros, spoken of by Jeremiah and Ezekiel, is supposed to have stood to the south of Thebes, but little is known concerning it.

Q. What city is designed under the Scripture name No?

A. Commentators differ as to what city was meant by No, but many respectable authorities assert that it was Thebes, which was a most magnificent city, having a hundred gates, and ornamented with colossal statues, temples, obelisks, palaces and stately buildings. Its ruins still fill travellers with astonishment.

Q. What was Sye′ne?

A. Sye′ne, the most southern city of Egypt, mentioned in Ezek. xxix. 10., stood immediately under the tropic of Cancer, so that, when the sun entered that sign, perpendicular objects cast no shadow.

Q. Was Mig′dol in this part of Egypt?

A. No; Mig′dol, one of the towns to which the Jews retired, and took Jeremiah with them, after the destruction of Jerusalem, was situated on the western shore of the Red sea; it appears to have been a place of little note.

Q. What was the situation of On?

A. On, or Aven, the city of which Pot′iphar was the priest, stood to the north-west of Mig′dol. It was known to the ancients by the name of Heliop′olis, or the city of the Sun, because that luminary was particularly worshipped there. This city, which stood in Go′shen, was one of those allotted for the residence of the Israelites, when Jacob removed into Egypt.

Q. What other cities did the Israelites possess in Goshen?

A. To the east of On was Ram′eses, called, (Exod. i. 11.,) a treasure city, and a little farther

east was Pi'thom, which had the same denomination. They were built by the Israelites, and were, probably, strongly fortified.

Q. What may be observed of Tah'panhes?

A. Tah'panhes, called by Isaiah (xxx. 4.) Hanes, was situated north-east of Pi'thom, and a little south of Zoan. Herod'otus speaks of it as Daphnæ Pelu'siæ, and it is described as a very pleasant place where Pharaoh had a palace.

Q. What was the situation of Sin?

A. Authors differ respecting the situation of Sin; some suppose that it was Sa'is, the ancient capital of Lower Egypt, now called Sa: Others, because Ezekiel calls it *the strength of Egypt*, imagine that it was Pelu'sium, a well-fortified city at the mouth of the most eastern branch of the Nile.

Q. What other city of Egypt requires to be mentioned?

A. Ezekiel, who, in chapter xxx., enumerates all the cities now described, mentions Pi'beseth, which stood on the eastern branch of the Nile, south-west of Tah'panhes; nothing certain is known concerning it.

CHAP. V.

Arabia and the Track of the Israelites through the Desert.

Q. In what direction did Moses lead the Israelites on coming out of Egypt?

A. The Israelites set out from Ram'eses, south-eastward to Suc'coth, which appears not to have been a city or town, but merely a place where they pitched their tents, Suc'coth in the Hebrew language signifying *tents*.

Q. What was their next stage?

A. From Suc'coth they marched to E'tham, which is at the northern extremity of the Red sea, and from whence they might have passed into the wilderness, or Ara'bia Petræ'a, to the north of the Red sea, had not God thought proper to command otherwise.

Q. In what direction did they proceed from E'tham?

A. From E'tham they proceeded southward to Pihahi'roth, not far from Mig'dol. Here they were overtaken by Pharaoh and his army, who had pursued them to bring them back.

Q. Were the Israelites delivered from this danger?

A. Yes; when escape seemed impracticable, the Lord caused the waters of the Red sea to divide, and afford a dry passage to the Israelites. The Egyptians followed, but no sooner were the Israelites safe on the opposite side, than the waters resumed their place, and the Egyptians were drowned.

Q. What places first occur in their journey through the desert?

A. After three days' journey southward, they came to a place which promised to supply them with plenty of water, but, on tasting it, it was found so bitter as to be unfit for use. From this circumstance it was called Ma'rah, or *bitterness*. The wood of a certain tree being cast into the water, it became sweet.

Q. Whither did the Israelites proceed on leaving Ma'rah?

A. From Ma'rah the Israelites proceeded to

E'lim, where were fountains and palm-trees,—a delightful discovery to wanderers in a scorching desert.

Q. What was their next encampment?

A. Proceeding still in a southerly direction, they encamped in the desert of Sin. Here God first favoured them with that heavenly food called manna, a kind provision of which they were not deprived till they entered the Promised Land.

Q. Proceed with the description of this celebrated journey.

A. Continuing still southward, they encamped at Doph'kah and at A'lush, but nothing remarkable happened at either of those places. Approaching the sea-coast, they suddenly took a north-easterly route, and arrived at Re'phid'im.

Q. What remarkable occurrence took place at Re'phi'dim?

A. At Re'phid'im, the children of Israel murmuring for want of water, Moses, at the command of the Lord, struck the rock, and a copious stream issued from it, and supplied their wants.

Q. What farther occurred here?

A. While the Israelites were encamped at Re'phid'im, they were attacked by the Amal'ekites, a people descended from Am'alek, the grandson of Esau, who settled in this neighbourhood. After a hard-fought battle, however, thy gained a complete victory.

Q. Whither did the Israelites next journey?

A. To the wilderness of Si'nai, in which is the celebrated mountain of that name, from whence the law of the ten commandments was given; and mount Ho'reb, to which the prophet Eli'jah retired from the persecution of Jez'ebel.

Q. Give a more particular account of what happened.

A. The Almighty having determined to make a covenant with his people, commanded Moses to sanctify them, and to come up himself to the top of the mountain. Here the Lord met him, and conversed with him for forty days and forty nights

Q. What was the subject of this gracious communication?

A. At this conference, besides the moral law engraved on tables of stone, God gave to Moses a code of laws peculiarly adapted to the Israelitish nation, and directions for the building of a tabernacle for his worship.

Q. What happened in the camp of the Israelites during the absence of Moses?

A. Though the people had witnessed the awful appearance of the Almighty, accompanied by thunderings and lightnings, and the terrible sound of a trumpet, they soon forgot the whole, and made a golden calf or ox *, which they worshipped with great rejoicings.

Q. What were the consequences?

A. God commanded Moses to go down and repress this vile idolatry. He therefore, on his arrival in the camp, destroyed the calf, and put to death about 3,000 of the transgressors.

Q. Describe the present appearance of Mount Si'nai?

A. Si'nai is a lofty mountain in Ara'bia Petre'a, having three heads, the highest of which is Si'nai, properly so called; the most westerly, Ho'reb,

* In imitation of the Egyptian Apis.

where God appeared to Moses in a bush *; and the eastern, the mount of St. Catherine, because that saint is supposed to lie buried on its summit.

Q. What farther deserves notice?

A. At the foot of Si'nai, stands the monastery of St. Catherine, an extensive building, strongly fortified to defend its inmates from the roving Arabs. From hence there were formerly 14,000 steps to the very summit of the mountain, but many of them are now broken.

Q. Does Mount Ho'reb afford any thing interesting?

A. At the foot of Mount Ho'reb, which stands west of Si'nai, and at sun-rising is overshadowed by it, is a rock said to be that from whence Moses procured water by striking it; it has twelve holes or channels supposed to be the apertures from whence the water issued.

CHAP. VI.

Arabia, and the journeying of the Israelites, continued.

Q. WHAT was the consequence of the idolatry of the Israelites?

A. The idolatry of the Israelites so provoked the Lord, that he determined that none who were then above twenty years of age should enter the promised land †; they were therefore commanded to turn back towards the Red Sea.

Q. Did they obey this command?

A. Yes: they proceeded northward to Ki'broth-hatta'avah, Haze'roth, Rith'mah, Rim'monpa'rez, through the land of Edom to Lib'nah.

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* The word Sinai signifies a bush. The Arabs called it Tor, or *the mountain*, by way of eminence; or Gibel Mousa, the mountain of Moses.

† Caleb and Joshua excepted.

Q. Did they continue in this direction?

A. No: from Lib'nah they proceeded westward to Rissah, and from thence turning southward they visited Kehel'athah, Mount Sha'pher, Har'adah, Mack'eloth, Ta'hath, Ta'rah, Mith'kab, Hash'monah, Mose'roth, Beneja'akan, Jot'bathah, Ebro'nah, and Ezion-ge'ber, at the northern extremity of the eastern branch of the Red Sea.

Q. In what direction did they proceed from Ezion-ge'ber?

A. From Ezion-ge'ber they took a north-easterly direction through the country of the Midianites, and encamped in the wilderness of Zin*, or Ka'desh; from thence they proceeded to Mount Hor, where Aaron died.

Q. Name the places through which they next proceeded?

A. From Mount Hor† they passed through Zalmo'nah, Pu'non, O'both, Ijeaba'rim, Di'bon Gad, Beer Al'mondiblath'aim, Naha'liel, Mat'tanah, Ba'moth, to the valley of Moab.

Q. What happened to them in the valley of Moab?

A. While encamped in the valley of Moab, Moses sent to request permission to pass through the territories of the Am'orites, but Si'hon, their king, refused, and came out against him with a great army. At Ja'haz an engagement took place, in which Sihon was routed and slain, and his whole country submitted to the Israelites.

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* This is a different place from the desert of Sin, mentioned before.

† Near mount Hor they were plagued with fiery flying serpents, and cured by looking at the brazen serpent elevated on a pole.

Q. Did any one else oppose the march of the Israelites?

A. Yes: Og, the king of Ba'shan, who was a giant, marched against them, and a battle took place at E'drei, in which Og was slain; his country, together with that of Sihon, having been allotted to some of the tribes, will be described in our account of Israel and Judah.

Q. Describe the scene of an important event which occurred soon after.

A. Moses having now led the people to the borders of the promised land, ascended Mount Ne'bo, and, after enjoying the prospect of Canaan from thence, died at the age of 120 years. Ne'bo, Pis'gah, and Aba'rim, form one chain of mountains near Jer'icho.

Q. Describe the land of E'dom.

A. Edom, called also Mount Seir and Idume'a, was situated south-east of the Dead Sea, in the land of the Horites; it was peopled by the descendants of Esau, and its chief cities were Baz'rah in the east, and Pe'trah, or Jee'tael, in the south, Elath on the Red Sea was likewise a town of Idum'ea.

Q. Who were the Amal'ekites, and where was their country situated?

A. The Amal'ekites were a people descended from Am'alek the grandson of Esau, who lived a roving life in the northern part of Arabia Petræa, having neither cities nor towns; they bore an implacable hatred to the Jews, but were nearly extirpated by Saul; some, however, escaped, as we hear of their plundering Zik'lag in the time of David.

Q. Describe the country of Mid'ian.

A. Mi'dian, so called from Mi'dian, the fourth son of Abraham and Ketu'rah, who settled there, lay to the south of Moab, and appears to have been an extensive country, as five of its kings were defeated by Phi'neas. Mi'dian, its chief city, stood on the Arnon, on the borders of Moab.

Q. Was not the country of Moab in Arabia?

A. Moab, the country peopled by the eldest son of Lot, was in the north-east part of Arabia Petræa to the east of the Dead sea. Its capital city was called Ar, or Areo'polis, or A'ride, and sometimes Kir-ha'resh.

Q. What deserves notice respecting the land of the Am'monites?

A. The Am'monites, descended from Ben-am'mi the younger son of Lot, inhabited the country north of Moab, and east of the kingdom of Israel; the capital city was called Rab'bah; it was taken by David, and its inhabitants put to a cruel death. In after ages it received the name of Philadelphia, from Ptolem'y Philadel'phus, king of Egypt, who repaired and beautified it.

Q. Is there any other country of Arabia mentioned in Scripture?

A. Yes: the country of Sheba, celebrated for the visit paid by its queen to Solomon, is supposed by many to be situated in the south of Arabia Felix. It was probably peopled by Sheba, the son of Cush.

CHAP. VII.

Canaan before it was conquered by the Israelites.

Q. From whom did this country take the name of Ca'naan?

A. From Ca'naan the fourth son of Ham and grandson of Noah, who settled in this country.

Q. What was the situation of Ca'naan?

A. It was bounded on the east by the mountains of Arabia, on the south by the wilderness of Pa'ran, Idumæ'a and E'gypt, on the west by the Mediterranean or Great sea, and on the north by Mount Lib'anus; its length was about 200 miles, and its greatest breadth ninety.

Q. What nations descended from Ca'naan inhabited this country?

A. The Sido'nians, the Hit'tites, the Je'busites, the Am'orites, the Gir'gasites, the Hi'vites, and some others of less note.

Q. In what part of Ca'naan were the Sido'nians situated?

A. The Sido'nians inhabited the northern part of Ca'naan called Phœni'cia, their chief city was Sidon, on the Mediterranean, an excellent seaport, famous for its trade and manufactures; its inhabitants were celebrated in the earliest ages for their skill in ship-building. This city still exists under the name of Zaide, but much fallen from its ancient splendour.

Q. What city of note was in the neighbourhood of Sidon?

A. Tyre, situated about twenty miles south of Sidon, was a famous city founded about 2,267 years before Christ. It consisted of two towns, one built on a rock in the sea, which was of small extent, the other about half a mile from the sea, exceedingly large, magnificent, and populous.

Q. What may be observed of Tyre?

A. This city withstood a siege of five years, by

Shalmane'zer, king of Assyr'ia, another of thirteen years by Nebuchadnez'zar, and a third by Alexander the Great. After, however, an obstinate defence for five months, it was taken and levelled with the ground.

Q. Did it recover from this disaster?

A. Yes: and stood another siege of fifteen months, by Antig'onus; after this it fell under the power of divers nations, until it was finally destroyed by the Mamelukes of Egypt. It is now called Zur, and inhabited by a few wretched fishermen, who have no other dwelling than the vaults of the ruins.

Q. What was the situation of the Hit'tites?

A. The Hit'tites, called also the children of Heth, inhabited the south of Canaan, between He'bron and Beer'sheba; their dwelling appears to have been among the mountains. Abraham purchased his sepulchre of them, and Esau married two wives from among this people.

Q. In what part of Ca'naan did the Jeb'usites settle?

A. The Jeb'usites dwelt to the north of the Hit'tites, and their chief city was called Je'bus, afterwards Jeru'salem; they kept possession till the time of David, when they were dispossessed by that monarch, and Je'bus made the capital of his dominions.

Q. What formidable people were neighbours to the Jeb'usites?

A. On the south border of the country of the Jeb'usites was the valley of Reph'aim, inhabited by giants, from whom descended Gõli'ath, Sip'pai, and Lah'mi.

Q. Describe the country of the Am'orites.

A. The Am'orites were a people of some note in Ca'naan, inhabiting all the south-eastern part, besides a large tract in the east, between the rivers Jab'bok and Ar'non, which constituted the kingdom of Sihon, and a tract of country bordering on Philis'tia. The prophet Amos speaks of them as a people of great courage and stature*, particularly the Emims, on the borders of Moab.

Q. In what part of Ca'naan were the Gir'gashites settled?

A. The Gir'gashites appear to have settled in the north-east of Ca'naan, to the east of the sea of Chin'neroth †; they were subdued by Joshua.

Q. Did not the Hi'vites possess different portions of this land?

A. Yes: the most considerable part of this nation was settled in the northern parts of Ca'naan, in Mounts Leb'anon and Her'mon, from Baa'l-hermon south, to the entering of Ha'math north; but some of this family dwelt in the plain of Miz'peh, in the centre of the country, and others to the south of the Per'izzites.

Q. Who were the Per'izzites?

A. The Per'izzites were inhabitants of Ca'naan, as their name imports; they were wanderers, having no towns, but living sometimes in one country and sometimes in another; though frequently subdued, they were never rooted out, as mention is made of the Per'izzites in the book of Ezra.

Q. Were there not many other petty nations in this country?

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* Amos ii. 9.

† This sea was afterwards called the lake of Gennesareth, and the sea of Tiberias.

A. Yes: we hear of the Ar'kites, the Si'nites, the Ar'vadites, the Zem'adites, the Ham'athites, *&c.*, but they were too inconsiderable to deserve farther notice.

Q. Who were the Philis'tines?

A. The Philis'tines were descendants of Miz'raim, the son of Ham, who settled in the south-west part of Pal'estine, and were a powerful people under their own kings as early as the time of Abraham. Joshua subdued them, but they soon recovered their independence, and their state in the time of Eli, Samuel, &c., was divided into five little principalities.

Q. What were the principal cities of the Philis'tines?

A. The principal cities of the Philis'tines were Gath, Ek'ron, Ash'dod, As'kelon, and Ga'za.

Q. Describe Gath?

A. Gath was an ancient city, the birth-place of the giant Goli'ath; it was conquered by David, and continued, with some little intermission, to be subject to the kingdom of Judah, till the captivity. It was situated about thirty miles west of Jerusalem, but now no longer exists*.

Q. Was Ek'ron a place of consequence?

A. Ek'ron, the most northern of the five cities, was a place of considerable wealth and power, and famous for the idolatrous worship paid by its inhabitants to Beel'zebub, the god of flies. It was given to the Jewish ruler, Jonathan, by Alexander, king of Syria.

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* It was destroyed by Hazael, king of Syria, but revived, and was in being in the days of Eusebius and St. Jerome, under its old name.—WELLS.

Q. What was the situation of Ash'dod?

A. Ash'dod, called in the New Testament, Azo'tus, was a strong city, situated about fourteen miles south-west of Gath, and near the Mediterranean sea. It was famous for the worship of Dagon, in whose temple the Philistines deposited the ark, till the injury done to their god obliged them to remove it *. This town was taken and destroyed by Jonathan.

Q. Give some particulars of As'kelon?

A. As'kelon, situated about ten miles south-west of Ashdod, was an ancient and well fortified seaport; it was annexed to Jude'a by Jonathan, and was the birth-place of Herod, who greatly embellished it.

Q. What may be observed of Ga'za?

A. Ga'za was a very strong and ancient city, situated on an eminence. It was besieged and destroyed by Pharaoh, and afterwards by Alexander the Great; but it arose from its ashes and received successively the names of Maiju'mah, Constan'tia, and *Ras'sa*, which it still retains.

Q. What is the present appearance of Gaza?

A. At a distance, the appearance of Gaza, with its lofty minarets †, and its beautiful date trees interspersed, is very imposing, but the city is much decayed from its ancient splendour; it has a castle and an harbour, but its principal commerce is carried on by caravans. It is fifty miles south-

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* See 1 Sam. v.

† Minarets are lofty, slender towers, sometimes attached to the Mosques, from whence the Turkish mollahs call the people to prayers—they use no bells.

west of Jerusalem, in the midst of a very fertile country.

Q. What other places belonging to Philis'tia are mentioned in the Scriptures?

A. Tim'nath, a little to the north-east of Ek'ron, remarkable as the residence of Samson's mistress; and Ge'rar, in the south country, the capital of Abim'elech, king of Gerar, who reigned in the time of Abraham.

CHAP. IX.

Aram, or Syria.

Q. WHAT were the situation and boundaries of A'ram?

A. A'ram, so called from the fifth son of Shem, who settled here, was situated to the north and east of Canaan, and was at first bounded by Ha'math and Mesopota'mia on the east, by Zo'bah, Ish'tob, and Ca'naan on the south, by Phœni''cia and the Mediterra'nean on the west, and by Ca-pado'cia on the north.

Q. When, and on what occasion, did this country receive the name of Syr'ia?

A. In process of time the descendants of Aram extended the limits of their possessions; and the country, bounded by the Eu'phrates, east; the Mediterra'nean, west; Cili''cia, north; and Phœni''cia, Jude'a, and Ara'bia Deser'ta, south; assumed the name of Syr'ia from Sy'rus the son of Apollo.

Q. Is not Syr'ia spoken of in Scripture under a variety of names?

A. Yes: it was divided into several provinces, called respectively, Syria of Damas'cus, Syria of Zo'bah, Syria of Maa'cah, &c.

Q. What cities of Syria deserve particular notice?

A. The principal cities of Syria were Damas'cus, Rib'lah, An'tioch, and Tad'mor.

Q. Describe Damascus?

A. Damascus is a very ancient city, having been in existence as such in the time of Abraham; it was the capital of Syria of Damascus, and was subdued by David. Toward the end of Solomon's reign, it shook off the yoke, and Re'zin became its king. Jerobo'am II. again brought it into subjection to Israel, but after his death the Syrians again revolted and set up a king of their own.

Q. Into whose hands did it afterwards fall?

A. After many vicissitudes it fell under the power of Alexander the Great; after that the Romans subdued it, and at last it came into the hands of the Arabians.

Q. What is the present appearance of Damascus?

A. Damascus, situated in a fertile plain, at the foot of Mount Lib'anus, is the residence of a Turkish pasha and the see of a Greek archbishop. It is of a square form, and supposed to contain 180,000 inhabitants; it is exceedingly well watered, and is enriched by nearly 200 mosques, many of which are handsome edifices, the most stately was once a Christian church.

Q. Give some particulars of Rib'lah?

A. Rib'lah was a very ancient city in the north of Aram, remarkable only as the place where Pharaoh Necho put Jeho'ahaz in bonds *. It is by some supposed to have stood on the same site as An'tioch.

* 2 Kings xxiii. 33.

Q. What may be observed of An'tioch?

A. An'tioch, built by Seleu'cus Nica'nor, in honour of his father, Anti'ochus, was situated on the river Oron'tes, about twelve miles from the Mediterranean, and was the usual residence of the Syrian kings.

Q. Was it a magnificent city?

A. Yes: it was of considerable magnitude, and adorned with fine fountains, sumptuous palaces, and magnificent temples; it was a place of great trade, and seated in a fertile country. Under the Romans it was honoured by the residence of some of the emperors.

Q. Did it not suffer great calamities?

A. Yes: It was repeatedly almost demolished by earthquakes; in 548 it was taken by the Persians, its inhabitants massacred, and the city burnt, but four years afterwards it was rebuilt by Justi'nian. In 574 the Persians took it a second time, and in 588 another earthquake destroyed 60,000 persons. After several other calamities and vicissitudes, it finally fell under the power of the Saracens, who demolished its most magnificent buildings.

Q. For what is An'tioch principally celebrated?

A. An'tioch is principally celebrated as being the city where the disciples of Christ were first called Christians, and as the birth-place of St. Luke.

Q. What is its present state?

A. Antioch, called by the Turks Anta'kia, is now a mean ruinous town, the houses built of clay and straw, and the streets narrow and miry; it contains, however, vestiges of its former magnificence.

Q. By whom was Tad'mor built, and what was its situation?

A. Tad'mor, an extensive and magnificent city, was built by Solomon, in the wilderness of Syria, near the northern boundary of Ara'bia Deser'ta, towards the Euphra'tes.

Q. Give some particulars of its history.

A. As Tad'mor was so remote from the other dominions of the kings of Israel, it is supposed to have remained but a short time subject to them, and to have been subdued by the Babylonians, Persians, and Macedonians, successively.

Q. What occasioned its extraordinary prosperity?

A. In the wars between the Romans and Parthians, Tad'mor, which ever since the time of Alexander had been called Palmy'ra, was favoured by both parties, considered as a free state, and protected in its trade. By these means it acquired vast wealth, and became famous for its magnificence.

Q. What occasioned the ruin of this noble city?

A. The emperor Gallie'nus having chosen as his colleague in the empire, Oden'athus, a nobleman of this city, on his being assassinated, his widow, Zeno'bia, took upon her the sovereignty of the East, and made Palmy'ra the capital of her dominions. Aure'lian, having routed her army in two battles, closely besieged her in this city.

Q. What was the event of the siege?

A. After a most obstinate defence the city was taken, and Zeno'bia carried captive to Rome. But the inhabitants having soon after treacherously put the Roman garrison to death; Aure'lian re-

turned and massacred the whole of them. From this time it never regained its ancient splendour, and was probably completely destroyed in the Saracen wars.

Q. What is the present appearance of Palmy'ra?

A. Palmy'ra is at present completely in ruins, so that, though innumerable columns, porticos, and other noble remains, sufficiently attest its former magnificence, no judgment can be formed of the ancient figure of the place, nor has history preserved any particulars of its destruction.

Q. Were there any other cities of note in Syria?

A. Yes; Tiph'sah, (mentioned 1 Kings iv. 21,) is generally supposed to have been Thap'sacus, where Dari'us crossed the Euphra'tes with his army, in his march against Alexander. It is now an insignificant place, called El or Ul Der. Reho'both was another town of Syria, its modern name is Rahabathmelic.

CHAP. X.

Mesopotamia.

Q. WHAT was Mesopota'mia?

A. Mesopota'mia was an extensive country, bounded on the west by the Euphra'tes, on the east by the Ti'gris, on the north by Arme'nia, and on the south by Babylo'nia or Chalde'a. In the Old Testament it is called Pa'dan A'ram, or A'ram Nahara'im.

Q. What cities of this country are mentioned in the Scriptures?

A. The principal cities of Mesopota'mia men-

tioned in Scripture, are Ha'ran, or Char'ran, Ur, Car'chemish *, Sepharva'im, and Reho'both.

Q. Give some account of Haran?

A. Ha'ran, or Char'ran, situated in the northern part of Mesopota'mia, called afterwards Car'ræ by the Romans, was probably named from Haran the son of Te'rah, and brother of Abraham. To this city Abraham afterwards sent his steward, Elea'zar, to procure a wife for his son Isaac. Ja'cob likewise went thither to visit his uncle La'ban.

Q. What do we know concerning Ur?

A. Ur, called Ur of the Chalde'ans, supposed by some to have been a city, by others a tract of country, was situated to the east of Ha'ran, and near the river Euphrates; from this place Abram was called.

Q. Was Car'chemish a place of note?

A. Car'chemish, now called Karke'siah, was a city seated on the Euphrates, not far from Reho'both in Syria; it was called by the Greeks and Romans Circe'sium. Nebuchadnez'zar took it from Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt, and put the garrison to the sword †.

Q. What was the situation of Sepharva'im?

A. Sepharva'im, the capital of the people called Sephar'vites, stood on the Euphrates, considerably south of Car'chemish; nothing certain is known respecting it.

Q. What do we know of Reho'both?

A. Reho'both, called Bir'tha by the geogra-

* Pron. Carkemish.

† 2 Kings xxiii. 29.—2 Chron. xxxv. 20.

pher Ptolemy, was seated on the Ti'gris, near the mouth of the river Ly'cus; it is mentioned by Moses (Gen. x. 11.) but was the scene of no extraordinary occurrence.

Q. What celebrated river runs through Mesopota'mia?

A. The river Che'bar, rendered famous as the scene of Eze'kiel's visions; it empties itself into the Euphra'tes.

CHAP. XI.

Assyria.

Q. WHAT were the boundaries of Assyr'ia?

A. Assyr'ia, or as it is sometimes called, El'lasar, was bounded on the north by Arme'nia, on the east by Me'dia and Per'sia, on the south by Babylo'nia, and on the west by the Ti'gris and Mesopota'mia. It is now called Kurdistan.

Q. What cities of note did Assyria possess?

A. We do not find mention of any city of note in Assyria Proper, but Nin'eveh its capital; it was situated on the Tigris, opposite, as is supposed by some, or, as others think, *on the spot* where Mosul now stands.

Q. Give some particulars respecting it.

A. Nin'eveh is said to have been founded by Ashur, the son of Shem, or by Nimrod son of Cush. It was exceedingly large and strong*; its walls having been a hundred feet high, and so broad that three chariots could drive abreast on

* Diodo'rus Si'culus says, that it was twenty-one miles long, nine miles wide, and fifty-four miles in compass, or three days' journey, according to the prophet Jonah.

them. These were strengthened by fifteen hundred towers, each two hundred feet high. No city of modern times can compare with this ancient metropolis in extent.

Q. Are there any remains of Nineveh?

A. No; the city that stands on its site is called Nunia, and is of considerable size, containing, according to report, from 20 to 24,000 houses, inhabited principally by Turks and Christians, who live in great harmony together. The country around is fertile, but subject to the ravages of locusts and other calamities *.

Q. What do we know of the history of Nin'eveh?

A. About eight hundred years before Christ, the wickedness of Nin'eveh was risen to such a height, that God sent the prophet Jonah to denounce its destruction, but the repentance of its inhabitants averted its doom.

Q. What happened to it subsequently?

A. In the year of the world, 3257, it was besieged and taken in the reign of its debauched and effeminate king, Sardanapa'lus, who burnt himself, his wives, children, and riches, to avoid falling into the hands of the conqueror. Twenty years after, it was again taken by Asty'ages, the Mede, and it was entirely ruined in the time of the Emperor A'drian.

Q. Was it not rebuilt?

A. Yes; it was rebuilt under the Persians, but finally destroyed by the Saracens, about the seventh century after Christ.

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* A little to the south of this city is Erbil, or Irbil, standing on the plain of Arbela, famous for the final battle between Alexander and Darius.

CHAP. XII.

Babylonia or Chaldea.

Q. WHAT were the situation and boundaries of Babylo'nia?

A. Babylo'nia, so called because here the language of mankind was confused*, is bounded on the north by Mesopotamia and Assyria; on the east by Persia, on the west by Arabia, and on the south by the Persian gulf.

Q. What is remarkable of this celebrated country?

A. In Babylo'nia are situated the plains of Shinar, wherein were assembled all the inhabitants of the earth a few centuries after the deluge, who, to prevent the ill consequences of the recurrence of such a calamity, determined to build a strong city and a tower of astonishing magnitude and height.

Q. Did they accomplish their vast undertaking?

A. No; their presumption displeased the Lord, and he put a stop to the work by confounding their languages, so that they were obliged to separate into distinct nations, and settle in different parts of the earth.

Q. Was not a great city built on the site of Babel?

A. Yes; Nimrod, the son of Cush, having made himself king of this country, built the celebrated city of Bab'ylon, on or near the very place where the tower of Babel had been begun, and from whence it had its name. Succeeding princes and Semir'amis, the wife of Ninus, in particular, en-

* Babel, or Babylon, signifies confusion or mixture.

larged and beautified it, so that it became one of the wonders of the world.

Q. Give a description of it.

A. Babylon is described as having been of a square form, each side fifteen miles in length, so that its compass was sixty miles. The walls were of large bricks cemented with bitumen *, three hundred and fifty feet high, and eighty-seven thick; in these walls were one hundred gates of brass, twenty-five on each side, with towers between them.

Q. What may be observed of the interior of the city?

A. Through the midst of the city ran the river Euphra'tes, parallel to which ran twenty-five streets, from north to south, terminated at each end by one of the brazen gates. These were crossed by twenty-five other streets running from east to west.

Q. What celebrated buildings adorned Babylon?

A. Over the river Euphra'tes was a noble bridge, a furlong in length, and sixty feet wide, at the east end of which were the old palace and the temple of Belus, and at the west end was the new palace.

Q. Were not the hanging gardens of Babylon esteemed one of the seven wonders of the world?

A. Yes; these gardens were composed of several large terraces raised on pillars and arches, one above another, and ascended by noble flights of steps; the platform of the highest terrace was 350 feet high, and commanded, no doubt, a

* Bitumen is a substance of a glutinous or sticky nature, which binds faster than mortar; it rises out of the earth in the neighbouring country.

prospect of the whole city. On it flourished the largest trees, and it was adorned with flowers and shrubs, and furnished with a reservoir, supplied by an engine with water from the river.

Q. Give a sketch of the history of this famous city.

A. Babylon, as has already been observed, was built by Nimrod; it was afterwards greatly enlarged by Be'lus, Ni'nus, and Semir'amis, but by none more than by Nebuchadnez'zar, who added so many noble structures to it, that he may be considered as its second founder*.

Q. Was it ever taken by an enemy?

A. Yes; in the reign of Belshaz'zar, the grandson of Nebuchadnez'zar, it was besieged by Cy'rus and Dari'us, or Asty'ages. After a tedious and ineffectual blockade, it was at length taken, by diverting the waters of the Euphra'tes into another channel, and entering the city by the bed of the river.

Q. By whom was it destroyed, and what is its present appearance?

A. History does not inform us by whom this vast city was destroyed, but it is probable, that its destruction was chiefly effected by the silent lapse of time. Travellers assure us that its ruins cover a vast extent of ground, but that they cannot be approached with safety, on account of the noxious reptiles with which they abound. Thus is Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled†.

Q. What other places deserve mention in Babylo'nia?

A. To the north-east of Babylon was Ac'cad, one of the cities built by Nimrod; its site is sup-

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* Dan. iv. 30. † Chap. 13. 19, 20.

posed to have been a little to the north of Bagdad. A few miles to the south-east was Cal'neh, another of those cities. This is with great reason believed to have been Ctes'iphon, the capital of the kingdom of the Parthians.

Q. What was the situation of E'rech?

A. E'rech, called Arec'ca by Ptolemy, stood at the union of the Tigris and Euphrates in the southern part of this country. The fields around it were famous for springs of naphtha, a kind of bitumen.

Q. Is not the Garden of Eden supposed to have been situated here?

A. Yes; learned men have differed respecting the situation of the terrestrial paradise; but the most probable site assigned for it is, between E'rech and Bas'sora, as the rivers Pi'son, Gi'hon, Hid'dekel and Euphrates are thought to be in this vicinity.

CHAP. XIII.—*Elam or Persia.*

Q. What was the situation of Elam?

A. Elam or Persia was bounded on the west by Media, on the south by the Persian gulf, on the north by Assyria, and on the west by Babylonia. It is said to have been first peopled by Elam, the eldest son of Shem.

Q. Of what places in Elam or Persia do we read in Scripture?

A. The only cities of Persia, of which we read in Scripture, are Shu'shan, Ach'metha, or Ecbat'ana and E'noch.

Q. Give some account of Shushan?

A. Shu'shan, the ancient metropolis of Persia

was situated between the rivers Aha'vah and U'lai, on the borders of Babylo'nia. Its modern name is Shus, or Tuster.

Q. What may be observed concerning it?

A. It is supposed to have been built by Titho'nus, father of Memnon*, who gave it the name of Memno'nia. It was called Shushan from the number of lilies that grew in its neighbourhood; and its walls were nearly seventeen miles in circumference. As its climate was very warm, it was the usual winter residence of the kings of Persia, who had a most magnificent palace there.

Q. Was Ecbat'ana a place of note?

A. Yes; Ecbat'ana, called in Scripture, Ach'metha†, and by the moderns, Aa'medan, lay in the northern part of the kingdom; and, for that reason, as the climate was moderate, it was the summer residence of the Persian kings. Here Alexander put Parme'nio to death, and here Hephæs'tion died, and was most magnificently buried.

Q. By whom was it founded, and what is related of it?

A. It was founded by Dejo'ces, king of the Medes, called in the book of Judith, Arphax'ad. It was surrounded by seven walls, which rose by a gradual ascent, and were painted of different colours; the circumference of the outermost was nearly twenty-four miles.

Q. What was E'noch?

A. E'noch, situated on the Karoon river, in the south-west of Persia, is the first city mentioned

* Tithonus was a son of Laomedon, king of Troy. See Pinnock's *Cat. Mythology*.

† Ezra, vi. 2.

in Scripture, and was no named from E'noch the son of Cain. Some suppose it to have been the Anuch'tha of Ptolemy, but nothing certain is known respecting it.

CHAP. XIV.—*Cyprus.*

Q. What is Cyprus?

A. Cyprus is an island in that part of the Mediterranean, called the Levant, between Cilicia and Syria.

Q. What renders it necessary to notice this island here?

A. It was visited by St. Paul, who preached the Gospel in all the cities of the island, but particularly at Sal'amis and Pa'phos. Barnabas was its first bishop, and was stoned to death at Sal'amis by the Jews of that place.

Q. Give some account of Sal'amis.

A. Sal'amis, once a celebrated city, on the eastern side of the island, is said, by Strabo, to have been built by Teucer, the brother of Ajax. In the reign of the emperor Trajan it was destroyed by the Jews, and afterwards rebuilt. It suffered the same fate by the Saracens, and from its ruins rose the present town of Famagus'ta.

Q. Describe Pa'phos.

A. Pa'phos, situated on the western side of the island, was a city peculiarly dedicated to Venus, who from thence was called the Paphian goddess. Here St. Paul, preaching before Ser'gius Paulus the governor, struck El'ymas with blindness for opposing the truth*. Pa'phos is now in ruins, but a small place called Baffo stands on its site.

* Acts xiii. 6.

CHAP. XV.—*Of the land of Canaan after its conquest by the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Q. By whom were the Canaanites dispossessed of their country?

A. The land of Canaan was invaded, and the inhabitants either destroyed, driven out, or rendered tributary, by the Israelites under Joshua, the successor of Moses. Its extent and boundaries have already been given.

Q. Give the names of the tribes into which the children of Israel were divided.

A. These tribes were named after the sons of Jacob, from whom they were descended; they were Reu'ben, Sim'eon, Le'vi, Ju'dah, Is'sachar, Zeb'ulun, Gad, Ash'er, Joseph, Dan, Naph'tali, and Benjamin.

Q. What parts of Canaan were allotted to these tribes?

A. To the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manas'seh, the son of Joseph, that part of Canaan to the east of the river Jordan, which had before constituted the kingdoms of Sihon and Og, were allotted. Of the western, Ash'er, Naph'tali; and Ze'bulun, had the north; Is'sachar, part of Manas'seh; E'phraim and Ben'jamin lay in the middle, and Dan, Sim'eon, and Judah occupied the south.

Q. What rivers water this country?

A. The most considerable rivers of Canaan were the Jordan, the Be'sor, the So'rek, the Ce'dron, Ki'shon, and Gaäsh; these, with the exception of the Jordan, are called *brooks* in the Scriptures.

Q. What was the course of the Jordan?

A. The Jordan rises near mounts Leb'anon or Lib'anus, and runs due south; fifteen or sixteen miles from its source its waters form the lake Semechon, called in Scripture the sea of Cin'nereth; from whence it continues a winding course, and passes by the sites of Succoth, Tap'puah, and Bethab'ara, and falls into the Dead Sea. Its course is about 150 miles in length.

Q. What is remarkable of the river Jordan?

A. The waters of Jordan used annually to overflow their banks about the time of barley-harvest, but from some unknown cause that phenomenon* no longer occurs. It was at this season that the Lord miraculously divided the waters, that the Israelites under Joshua might pass over on dry land†.

Q. What circumstance renders the Jordan particularly illustrious?

A. Our blessed Lord was baptized in its waters by his forerunner John.

Q. What is the course of the brook Be'sor?

A. The brook Besor rises near the site of Rim'mon in the land of Judah, and after running through the vale of Esh'col, falls into the Mediterra'nean a little below Ga'za.

Q. In what direction does the So'rek flow?

A. The So'rek rises a little to the north of Jerusalem, flows through the valley of So'rek, and empties itself into the Mediterra'nean below As'kelon.

Q. What is the course of the Ce'dron?

A. The Ce'dron, or Ke'dron, rises near Jerusa-

* Phenomenon is an unusual operation of nature.

† Joshua iii. 15.

lem, and after a short easterly course falls into the Dead Sea.

Q. In what part of Judea is the source of the Kish'on?

A. The source of the Ki'shon is not far from Jar'muth, a little to the north of Sama'ria. It takes a northerly direction, is joined by a branch from mount Tabor, and flows into the Mediterra'nean or Great Sea.

Q. Describe the course of the Gaäsh.

A. The Gaäsh rises in the land of Ephraim, runs westward, and falls into the Mediterranean, a little above Jop'pa, or Jaf'fa.

Q. Do not the rivers Jab'bok and Ar'non belong to the country of the Israelites?

A. Yes; they were originally rivers of Moab; but that country having been subdued by David, and annexed to his dominions, their description will be very properly placed here.

Q. Describe the course of the Jab'bok.

A. The Jab'bok rises in the mountains of Gil'ead, and taking a westerly course, falls into the Jordan, below the sea of Cin'nereth.

Q. What may be observed of the Ar'non?

A. The Ar'non also rises in the mountains of Gilead, and at first runs in a southerly direction; it afterwards makes a bend to the west, and lastly turns to the north, and falls into the Dead Sea.

Q. Name the principal mountains of this country.

A. The principal mountains of Judea and Le'banon, Her'mon, Gil'ead, Seir, Calvary, Ol'ivet, E'phraim, Si'chem, E'bal, Ger'izim, Gil'boa, Car'mel, and Ta'bor; these will be described when we speak of the tribes in whose territories they are found.

Q. Into what classes were the cities of Judah divided?

A. The cities of Judah were divided into three classes; Royal, or such as were governed by Canaanitish kings, previous to the conquest of the country by the Israelites; Levit'ical, or such as were appropriated for the residence of the Levites; and cities of Refuge.

Q. What were the cities of Refuge?

A. The cities of Refuge were certain cities appointed for such to flee to as had killed a person unawares. There were three to the east of Jordan, Bezer, Ra'moth-gilead, and Go'lan, and three to the west of Jordan, He'bron, She'chem, and Ka'desh-Naph'tali.

CHAP. XVI.—*Of Reuben.*

Q. How were the territories of the tribe of Reuben bounded?

A. The territories of the tribe of Reuben were bounded on the north by those of Gad; on the east and south by the river Arnon and Moab; on the west by part of the Dead Sea, the Jordan, Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim.

Q. Enumerate the principal cities of this tribe.

A. The principal cities in the tribe of Reuben were Hesh'bon, Meph'aath, Med'eba, Jaha'zah, Ked'emoth, Be'zor or Boz'rah, besides the towns of Al'mon-Diblath'aim, Mat'tanah, Ar'non, Kirjatha'im, La'sha, Bethjes'himoth, Betha'raba, A'belshit'tim, Ash'doth Pisgah, Bethpe'or, and some others.

Q. What may be observed of Hesh'bon?

A. Hesh'bon, once the metropolis and residence

of Sihon, king of the Amorites, was situated about twenty miles to the east of Jordan, and was remarkable for its excellent fish-ponds*. It was a royal and Levitical city, and in the days of Jer'ome and Euse'bius, was of considerable consequence, but it is now insignificant.

Q. What were Meph'aath and Med'eba?

A. Meph'aath was a Levitical city, about ten miles south of Heshbon; and Med'eba, now called Belkaa, lay about six miles to the east of Meph'aath. It was remarkable as the place where Joab obtained a victory over the Am'monites and Syr'ians†.

Q. Where was Jaha'zah situated?

A. Jaha'zah or Jahaz, a Levitical city, was situated twelve miles to the south-east of Med'eba, in or near the wilderness of Ked'emoth. Here the engagement between Sihon, king of the Amorites and the Israelites took place‡.

Q. What place was in the vicinity?

A. A little to the east was A'roer, called the City in the River, which probably means that the river Gad or Arnon ran through the midst of it §.

Q. Where was Ked'emoth situated?

A. Ked'emoth was situated in the southern part of the wilderness of that name, twelve miles south of Jaha'zah; it was a Levitical city, but nothing of importance is related concerning it.

Q. What may be observed of Bezer?

A. Be'zer, Be'zor, or, as it is called by Isaiah, Boz'rah, was a Levitical city, and one of the cities of refuge, six miles south-west from Ked'emoth.

* Sol. Song, vii. 4. † 1 Chron. xix. 7.
‡ Deut. ii. 32. § 2 Sam. xxiv. 5.

Q. Give some particulars of the other cities and towns of this tribe.

A. Al'mon-Diblath'aim, Mat'tanah, Naha'liel, Kirjath'aim, and the rest of the cities of Reuben, have nothing to render a particular description necessary. Bethpe'or, or Baalpe'or, in the north-west, was so named from the idol Peor, or Baal, one of the gods of the Amorites, who had been particularly worshipped there. Bethab'ara, or Bethar'aba, on the Jordan, was the place where Our Lord was baptized by John.

Q. What remarkable mountain stood in this tribe?

A. In the north was mount Nebo, from the top of which Moses viewed the promised land, and where he died.

CHAP. XVII.—*Gad.*

Q. How were the territories of Gad bounded?

A. The territories of the tribe of Gad were bounded on the north by Manas'seh, and the sea of Cin'nereth, on the east by Am'mon, on the south by Reu'ben, and on the west by the river Jor'dan.

Q. What places of note belonged to the tribe of Gad?

A. Ja'besh Gilead, Mahana'im, Ra'moth Gilead, Ja'zer, Betha'ran, Suc'coth, Penu'el, Miz'peh, and Lode'bar.

Q. Give some account of Ja'besh Gilead.

A. Ja'besh Gilead was a town of some importance in the north-west part of this tribe. It was besieged by Na'hash, king of the Ammonites, but delivered by Saul*. Under a tree in the neigh-

* 1 Sam. xi.

bourhood of Jabesh were the bones of Saul and Jonathan buried*.

Q. What renders Mahan'aim deserving of notice?

A. Mahana'im, about five miles south-east of Jabesh, was so named by Jacob, because he met the angels of God there †. It was afterwards a strong city, the metropolis of the kingdom of Israel during the short reign of Ish'bosheth, the son of Saul. David retired thither on the rebellion of his son Ab'salom.

Q. Describe Ra'moth Gil'ead.

A. Ra'moth Gil'ead, twenty miles south-east of Mahana'im, was a fortified Levitical city, and one of those appointed as a place of refuge for the manslayer. It was taken from the Israelites by the king of Syria; and in attempting to recover it, Ahab was slain. Joram his son was afterwards wounded in a like attempt‡.

Q. What place of note was in the vicinity of Ramoth?

A. About six miles south-west of Ramoth, was Roge'lim, whither Barzil'lai accompanied David on his return to Jerusalem.

Q. What was the situation of Jazer?

A. Ja'zer, a Levitical city of some importance, was situated nine miles south of Ra'moth Gil'ead, on the eastern border of a lake called the sea of Ja'zer, from whence issued a brook of that name: nothing particular is recorded of this city.

Q. What places were in the vicinity of Jazer?

A. A little to the north was A'bel of the Vineyards, and to the south, Min'nith, both mentioned Judges xi. 33.

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* 1 Sam. xxxi. 13. † Gen. xxxii. 2. ‡ 1 Kings xxii. 15.

Q. Give some account of Lode'bar.

A. Lode'bar or De'bir, was a town near the river Jordan, remarkable only as the residence of Mephib'osheth, the son of Saul.

Q. Was Suc'coth a place of importance?

A. Suc'coth was a small place, chiefly remarkable as standing on the spot where Jacob pitched his tents on his return from Mesopota'mia. A little to the east of it was the wood of E'phraim, where the battle was fought between the forces of David and those of his rebellious son Absalom*.

Q. Was there not a place called Tish'beh in this tribe?

A. Some authors say that Tish'beh, the native city of Elijah, was in this tribe, near the river Jordan, but this is by no means certain.

Q. Give some account of Penu'el.

A. Penu'el is celebrated as the scene of Jacob's wrestling with the angel, from whence it derives its name, which signifies the *face of God.* When Gid'eon pursued after the Mid'ianites, the inhabitants of Penu'el insulted him; wherefore, on his return he beat down the tower of Penu'el, and slew the men of the city†.

CHAP. XVIII.—*Manasseh, east of Jordan.*

Q. WHAT were the boundaries of the half tribe of Manas'seh, east of Jordan?

A. The territories of Manas'seh, east of Jordan, were bounded on the north and east by Mount Hermon, and the country of the Am'monites; on the south by Gad, on the west by the sea of Cin'-

* 2 Sam. xviii. 6 to 17. † Judges viii. 8 & 17.

nereth, and the river Jordan which separates it from Naph'tali.

Q. What places of note belonged to this tribe?

A. The most remarkable cities and towns of Manas'seh, east of Jordan, were, Ma'achah, Ge'shur, Go'lan, Beesh'terah-Ash'teroth, Ed'rei, Ash'teroth, Ca'rnaim, Bethsa'ida, Gad'ara, and Ger'gesa.

Q. What was the situation of Ma'achah?

A. Ma'achah was situated in the north part of this tribe, and was a royal city; but it appears, from Joshua xiii. 13, that the Canaanites, the original inhabitants, were never destroyed or expelled, so that it could not with propriety be called an Israelitish city.

Q. Give some account of Ge'shur.

A. Ge'shur, situated about twelve miles south-east of Ma'achah, was likewise a royal city, whose original inhabitants kept possession of it. For we read of Ta'lmai, king of Geshur, to whom Absalom fled after the murder of his brother Amnon*.

Q. What was Go'lan?

A. Golan, eight miles south of Geshur, was a Levitical city, and a city of refuge, but affords nothing important.

Q. What was Beesh'terah?

A. Beesh'terah-Ash'taroth, or Bos'ra, was a Levitical city, nearly twenty miles south-east of Go'lan, but no important event is connected with it.

Q. Was Ed'rei a city of note?

A. Ed'rei was a city about seven miles south-by-east of Beesh'terah, principally remarkable as

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* 2 Sam. xiii. 37, 38.

having been the scene of the battle between the Israelites and the giant Og, king of Ba'shan*.

Q. What remarkable place was in the vicinity of Ed'rei?

A. About three miles south of Ed'rei was Miz'-peh, remarkable as the residence of Jeph'tha, one of the judges of Israel. Some time after it was taken by the Am'monites, and it remained in their hands till the days of Ju'das Maccabe'us, by whom it was totally destroyed.

Q. Describe Ash'taroth Car'naim.

A. Ash'taroth Car'naim was a considerable town, about ten miles west of Ed'rei; said by St. Jerome to have been in existence in his time, under the name of Car'nea; it was supposed to have been the residence of Job, and the inhabitants pretended to shew the house where he dwelt.

Q. What was the situation of Bethsa'ida?

A. Bethsa'ida was situated on the northern border of the sea of Cin'nereth, or sea of Tibe'rias, and was merely a fishing village, till Philip the tetrarch raised it to the dignity of a considerable city; it is now dwindled to less than its original insignificance, consisting of only five or six poor cottages.

Q. What has rendered Gad'ara remarkable?

A. Gad'ara, a very rich city, a little to the north-west of Ash'taroth Car'naim, was the capital of the country of the Gad'arenes where our Lord performed the miracle of casting out the devils, and permitting them to enter into a herd of swine, which immediately ran into the sea and were drowned.

* Deut. iii. 1.

Q. Was not Ger′gesa in this neighbourhood?

A. Yes: Ger′gesa was about nine miles south-by-west of Gad′ara, at the foot of the mountains of Gil′ead.

Q. What remarkable places were within this tribe?

A. In the north-west border was a portion of the tribe of Dan, containing the city called Dan, but before named Lesh′em or La′ish. Hither Abram pursued the forces of Chedorla′omer, king of Elam, and his allies*. It is now called Ba′nias. About the centre of the tribe was the hill of Ba′shan, and in the south were the mountains of Gil′ead.

CHAP. XIX.—*Manasseh west of Jordan.*

Q. How were the possessions of Manasseh west of Jordan bounded?

A. The possessions of Manasseh west of Jordan were bounded on the north by Issachar, on the west by the Mediterranean, on the east by the Jordan, and on the south by Gad; besides these there were detached portions belonging to Manasseh in the tribes of Is′sachar and Asher.

Q. Name the principal cities of Manasseh on this side Jordan.

A. Ta′anach, Megid′do, Cæsare′a, Gathrim′-mon, Sama′ria, Tiph′sah, Tir′zah, The′bez, Oph′rah, Be′zek, Beth′shan, Jez′reel, En′dor, and Dor.

Q. What was Ta′anach?

A. Ta′anach was a royal city in that part of Manasseh, lying in the territory of Is′sachar. It is supposed to have been about ten miles north of Megid′do.

* Gen. xiv. 14.

Q. For what was Megid'do celebrated?

A. Megid'do, another royal city, was possessed by the Canaanites long after the country was subdued by Israel. Solomon rebuilt it*, and it witnessed the death of two kings, Ahazi'ah†, and Josi'ah ‡.

Q. Was not Cæsare'a a modern city?

A. Yes; it was built by Herod on the sea-side, nine miles south-west of Megiddo, at a place called Straton's Tower. It was a magnificent city, being built almost entirely of marble, and had a noble port. Here Herod An'tipas was smitten by the angel§, and Corne'lius the centurion was an inhabitant of this city ||.

Q. What is the present state of Cæsare'a?

A. Cæsare'a, now called Kaisari'ah, is a respectable town, surrounded by walls, five miles in circumference, and carrying on a considerable trade in morocco leather. Near it is a mountain always covered with snow.

Q. Give some particulars of Gath Rim'mon.

A. Of Gath Rim'mon nothing is known, except that it was a Levitical city, twelve miles east of Cæsare'a.

Q. What was Sama'ria?

A. Sama'ria, the metropolis of the kingdom of Israel, after its separation from Judah, was built by Omri, king of Israel¶, about A.M. 3080. It stood on a pleasant hill, forty-two miles north of Jerusalem, and was no doubt a magnificent city, as Ahab is said to have erected there a palace of ivory, and in Amos iii. 15, it is spoken of as possessing sumptuous buildings.

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* 1 Kings ix. 15. † 2 Kings ix. 27. ‡ 2 Chron. xxxv. 22. § Acts xii. 23. || Acts x. 1. ¶ 1 Kings xvi. 24.

Q. Mention some events connected with this city.

A. A.M. 3119, Samaria was reduced to such an extremity of famine by Ben'hadad, king of Syr'ia, that mothers ate their own children*. It was several times besieged and taken, and its inhabitants were at last carried into captivity by the king of Assyr'ia. It was entirely destroyed by John Hirca'nus, but rebuilt by Aulus Gabin'ius. A.M. 3947, and greatly enlarged and adorned by Herod the Great.

Q. What is its present state?

A. It still exists under the name of Sebaste, but is a poor and inconsiderable place. John Baptist is said to have been buried here.

Q. What was Tiph'sah?

A. Tiph'sah was a city, five miles south-east of Sama'ria, remarkable only for the cruelties exercised upon its inhabitants by Men'ahem, king of Israel†.

Q. Describe Tir'zah.

A. Tir'zah, a royal city, seven miles east-by-north of Tiphsah, was exceedingly magnificent‡, and for many years the residence of the kings of Israel.

Q. What was The'bez?

A. The'bez was a fortified town, about five miles west of Tirzah, with a strong tower, from whence a woman threw a piece of a mill-stone on the head of Abim'elech, king of She'chem, and slew him§.

Q. Give some account of Oph'rah?

A. Oph'rah, the native place of Gid'eon, was about thirteen miles south-east of Tirzah, but offers nothing interesting to the historian.

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* 2 Kings vi. vii. † 2 Kings xv. 16. ‡ Sol. Song, vi. 4.
§ Judges ix. 50, 51, 52, 53.

Q. Did any important event occur at Be'zek?

A. Yes. At Be'zek a city twenty-one miles north-west of Oph'rah, the Israelites defeated the Canaanitish army, and slew of them ten thousand men. Adonibe'zek, king of this city, had his thumbs and great toes cut off, in return for a like cruelty practised by him on three-score and ten kings whom he had conquered*.

Q. What may be observed of Beth'shan?

A. Beth'shan was a considerable city in another detached portion of this tribe, a little to the west of Jor'dan and south of Mount Gil'boa, where Saul was slain, his body was fastened by the Philistines to the wall of this place†. Beth'shan was afterwards called Scythop'olis.

Q. Was not En'dor situated near mount Gil'boa?

A. Yes, about six miles to the north of it. It was the residence of a powerful witch, whom Saul employed to call Samuel from the grave, to inform him of the result of the next day's battle‡.

Q. Describe Jez'reel.

A. Jez'reel, situated in the valley of Jez'reel, in the northern part of this tribe, was a very considerable city, where the kings of Israel had a palace. To the south of the city was the vineyard of Na'both, which A'hab coveted, and for which its owner was unjustly put to death. Jez'ebel, the author of this murder, was overtaken by divine vengeance in this very city, being flung out of a window by order of Jehu, and her flesh devoured by dogs.

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* Judges i. 6, 7. † Sam. xxxi. 10. ‡ I Sam. xxviii. 7.

Q. What was the situation of Dor?

A. Dor, now called Torto'ura, was a royal city on the coast of the Mediterranean sea. It was besieged by Anti'ochus, king of Syr'ia, with an immense army, on account of its sheltering Tri'phon his rival.

Q. Mention other remarkable places of this tribe.

A. To the south of Jez'reel was Shu'nem, where Eli'sha raised the Shunammite woman's child to life; and a little to the southwest of it was the scene of A'hab's victory over Ben'hadad, king of Syria*.

CHAP. XX.—*Naphtali.*

Q. WHAT were the boundaries of Naph'tali?

A. The possessions of Naph'tali were bounded on the north by Syr'ia and part of Dan; on the east by Manas'seh, on the south by the sea of Cinneroth, and on the west by Zeb'ulon and Asher.

Q. Name the principal cities of Naph'tali.

A. The principal cities of Naph'tali were, Ma-don, Ha'mothdor, Har'osheth, Ha'zor, Kar'ton or Kirjatha'im, Caper'naum, Chin'nereth or Cin'-neroth, Ke'desh, and A'bel-beth-maa'chah.

Q. What were Ma'don and Hamothdor?

A. Ma'don was a royal city, almost in the centre of the tribe, but little is known concerning it. Ha'mothdor was a Levitical city, about three miles south-by-east of Ma'don.

Q. Mention every thing remarkable of Har'osheth and Ha'zor.

A. Ha'zor was a royal city, which was recovered

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* 1 Kings, xx. 19, 20.

from the Israelites, by its ancient possessors, as we read in Judges, iv. 2. that it was the residence of Ja'bin, king of Ca'naan. Har'osheth of the Gentiles was the dwelling-place of Sis'era, the commander of his army.

Q. What were Kar'tan and Caper'naum?

A. Kar'tan or Ki'rjath'aim, in the southern part of this tribe was a Levitical city; and Caper'naum, a little to the south, on the borders of the sea of Chin'nereth, was a place highly favoured by the frequent visits of our Lord. From this city he called the Apostle St. Matthew.

Q. Was Chin'nereth a place of importance?

A. Chin'nereth, Cin'nereth, or Cin'neroth, was an ancient city in the land of Genes'areth, on the north-west coast of the sea of that name. Some suppose it to be the town which Herod rebuilt, and called Tibe'rias, but others place this latter city eight miles farther south *.

Q. Give some account of Ke'desh.

A. As there were two towns of this name, the one now under consideration was distinguished by the name of Ke'desh Naph'tali. It was about two miles and a half west of Har'osheth of the Gentiles, was a royal, Levitical, and refugial city, and celebrated as the native place of Ba'rak, who conquered the armies of Ja'bin, and delivered Is'rael from his tyranny †.

Q. What rendered A'bel-beth-ma'achah a place of note?

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* Of the former opinion are Macbean, Toy, &c.—Wells and Pinnock's Scripture Atlas favour the latter.

† Judges, 4.

A. A'bel-beth-ma'achah was a small, but fortified town about seven miles north-west of Ka'desh. To this place the rebel She'ba fled, and was besieged by Jo'ab. To save the place, a wise woman persuaded the inhabitants to behead She'ba. On this being done, and his head thrown to Jo'ab over the wall, he drew off his forces and departed*.

Q. What other remarkable places were in this tribe?

A. Through the north part of this tribe ran the chain of mountains, called Anti-Lib'anus, to the south of which was the valley of Beth'rehob. On the eastern border, was the lake called the Waters of Me'rom, where the Can'aanitish kings were defeated by Joshua (xi. 5.) Near Kar'tan is the mount called the Mount of Beatitudes, from whence our Saviour preached his first sermon. A little south of it stood Chora'zin, against whom a woe was pronounced for its infidelity.

CHAP. XXI.—*Asher.*

Q. How was the tribe of Asher bounded?

A. Asher was bounded on the north by Sy'ria, on the east by Naph'tali, on the south by Zeb'ulun, and on the west by the Mediterranean or Great Sea.

Q. Enumerate its principal cities.

A. The principal cities of the tribe of Asher were Re'hob, Ach'saph, Mi'shal, Ac'cho or Ptolema'is, He'lkath, Hebron or Ab'don, Tyre, Sarep'ta, and Si'don.

Q. What is known respecting Re'hob?

* 2 Sam. xx.

A. Re′hob appears to have been a great and strong city, in the northern part of the tribe, out of which the children of Israel could not drive the Can′aanites. The spies sent by Josh′ua explored the land as far north as this city, but no farther *.

Q. What was the situation of Ach′saph ?

A. Ach′saph was a royal city in the southern part of the tribe, but it has nothing important recorded respecting it. Between it and Re′hob, lay the villages of Bethda′gon, Ne′lel, Ra′mah, Beth′-rehob, Ca′bul, Ba′algad, Ham′mon and Ze′dad.

Q. What was Mi′sheal ?

A. Mi′sheal was a Levitical city, about seven miles west of Ach′saph, but appears to have been a place of no great note. Between these two cities was Me′roz, cursed by Deborah and Barak for not coming to the assistance of their brethren †.

Q. Describe Ac′cho.

A. Ac′cho, afterwards called by the Greeks Ptolema′is, was a port on the Mediterra′nean. Of this city the Can′aanites long kept possession.

Q. What is its modern history ?

A. Ac′cho or Ptolema′is, was the scene of numerous sieges during the wars called the Crusades, and it several times changed masters; but at length it was taken by the Turks, the inhabitants massacred without mercy, and the city laid in ruins.

Q. Did it ever recover from this catastrophe ?

A. No. The ancient city is still a scene of magnificent desolation ; but a new one has been built about a mile from it, memorable for the siege it sustained against the French in 1799, by the as-

* Num. xiii. 21. † Jud. v. 23.

sistance of the British under Sir Sidney Smith. It is called Acre, or St. John d'Acre.

Q. What may be observed of Hel'kath and Ab'don?

A. Hel'kath, a Levitical city, was situated near the centre of the tribe, and belonged to the family of Ger'shon. Ab'don, a little to the north of it, was likewise a possession of this family.

Q. Have not Tyre and Si'don already been described?

A. Yes, in our account of Phœni"cia, chap. viii. The Is'raelites never gained possession of these two celebrated cities.

Q. Give some account of Sarep'ta.

A. Sarep'ta, or as it is called in the Old Testament, Zar'ephath, was situated about midway between Tyre and Si'don, and belonged to the latter city. To Sar'epta was Eli'jah sent by God, during the famine that raged in Israel *.

Q. What is the present state of Sar'epta?

A. On the top of the mountains, about half a mile from the sea, are a few houses forming a village called Sar'tend; but it is probable that the ancient city stood between the hills and the sea, as considerable ruins still exist in that direction.

Q. What place of note was in the vicinity of Sar'epta?

A. About seven miles to the east of Sar'epta stood A'phek†, whither the Syrians fled on their defeat by Ahab. It must have been a considerable

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* 1 Kings, xvii. 8 to 16.

† There was another A'phek in Judah, but it is most probable that the Syrians fled towards their own country.

place, as the wall fell and slew twenty-seven thousand of them *.

CHAP. XXII.—*Zebulun.*

Q. How was the tribe of Zeb'ulun bounded?

A. The tribe of Zeb'ulun was bounded on the north by Ash'er and part of Naph'tali; on the east by Naph'tali and the sea of Chin'nereth; on the south by Is'sachar; and on the west by part of Manas'seh.

Q. What were the chief cities of Zeb'ulun?

A. The chief cities of Zeb'ulun were Rim'mon, Gath-he'pher, Dim'nah, Naha'lal, Shim'ron, Tibe'rias, Kat'tah, Ta'bor, Jok'neam, Naz'areth.

Q. Give some particulars of Rim'mon and Gathhe'pher.

A. Rim'mon or Rem mon Meth'oar was a Levitical city, in the northern part of the tribe; and Gathhe'pher; about six miles south of it, was the birth-place of the prophet Jonah.

Q. What may be observed of Dim'nah and Naha'lal?

A. Dim'nah was a Levitical city, on the borders of Naph'tali and Naha'lal, another of the same description, four miles west of it. Near it was Ca'na, where Jesus made the water wine †.

Q. Were Shim'ron-me'ron and Tibe'rias, cities of note?

A. Shim'ron-me'ron was a royal city, four miles south-east of Naha'lal ‡. Tibe'rias was a town on the south-west shore of the sea of Tibe'rias, built by Herod the tetrarch, and named in honour of the then Roman emperor.

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* 1 Kings, xx. 30. † John ii. ‡ Josh. xii. 20.

Q. What is known of Kat'tah and Ta'bor?

A. Kat'tah and Ta'bor were Levitical cities in the southern part of this tribe. To the north of the latter is the celebrated mount Ta'bor, on which our Lord was transfigured. A little to the west was the town of Beth'lahem, but not the native place of the Saviour of the world.

Q. What were Jok'neam and Naz'areth?

A. Jok'neam was a royal and Levitical city, in the western part of this tribe, but presents nothing worthy of record. Fourteen miles north-east was Naz'areth, the city in which Jesus resided for thirty years of his life. It is now a poor, inconsiderable village; but the inhabitants pretend to shew the house of Joseph, and many other remarkable things.

Q. What river of note waters this tribe?

A. The river Ki'shon runs through the western part of the tribe of Zeb'ulon.

CHAP. XXIII.—*Issachar.*

Q. How is the tribe of Is'sachar bounded?

A. The tribe of Is'sachar is bounded on the north by Zeb'ulon, on the east by Gad, on the south by Manas'seh, two detached portions of which tribe were within its boundary, and on the west by Manas'seh and the Mediterranean sea.

Q. Name the cities of this tribe.

A. Ki'shon, Na'in, Dab'erath, A'belmeho'lah, A'nim, or Engan'nim, Jar'muth, Beth'shemesh, Do'than.

Q. What do we know of Ki'shon?

A. Ki'shon, situated in the northern border of the tribe, is mentioned by Joshua (xxi. 28.) as

given, to the family of Ger'shon; it, was consequently a Levitical city. Near it, to the south, the battle was fought between the armies of Ba'rak and Sis'era *.

Q. For what is Na'in remarkable?

A. Na'in, five miles east of Ki'shon, and two south-west of Ta'bor, is rendered remarkable as the place where our Lord raised the widow's son to life.

Q. What may be observed of Dab'erath and A'belmeho'lah?

A. Dab'erath, situated at the north-eastern extremity of the tribe, was another city given to the Ger'shonites. A'belmeho'lah, in the south-east, was remarkable merely as the native place of Elisha the prophet †. A little to the east was E'non, near Sa'lim, where John was baptizing; and three miles north of E'non was Zar'eta, the birth-place of Jerobo'am, king of Israel.

Q. Describe A'nem and its vicinity.

A. A'nem, or Engan'nim, was a Levitical city near the hill of Moreh. Five miles west of A'nem was D'othan, whither Joseph went to seek his brethren ‡, and where Eli'sha was besieged by the Sy'rian army §.

Q. What was Jar'muth?

A. Jar'muth, called also Re'moth, was a Levitical and refugial city, on the borders of Manas'seh, near the source of the river Ki'shon; near it, on the east, was Shu'nem, remarkable as the residence of the Shu'nammite woman who was so kind to Eli'sha ¶.

Q. For what was Beth'shemesh remarkable?

* Judges, iv. 15. † 1 Kings, xix, 16. ‡ Gen. xxxvii. 17. § 2 Kings, vi. 13. ¶ 2 Kings. iv. 8.

A. Beth'shemesh, fourteen miles north-west of Jar'muth, is merely remarkable as being of the same name with a place in the tribe of Judah, whither the kine that drew the ark from the land of the Philistines directed their course *. To the north-west is Mount Car'mel, whither Elisha so frequently retired.

CHAP. XXIV.—*Ephraim.*

Q. How were the possessions of the half tribe of Ephraim bounded?

A. Ephraim was bounded on the north by Manasseh, on the east by Jordan, on the south by Dan and Benjamin, and on the west by the Mediterranean Sea.

Q. What places of note were in this tribe?

A. The principal places in Ephraim were She'chem, Tap'puah, Kib'zaim, Shi'loh, Beth'horon the Upper, Beth'horon the Nether, Ge'zer, Mo'din, Jop'pa, Antip'atris, Lasha'ron.

Q. What is known of She'chem?

A. Shechem, Shalim, or Sychar, was situated in the northern part of this tribe, between the mounts E'bal and Ger'izim, from whence blessings and curses were appointed to be pronounced †. It was a Levitical and refugial city.

Q. What events are recorded of Shechem?

A. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, resided in or near it. Jacob's sons slew all the males of this city by treachery ‡. Abim'elech, son of Gideon, destroyed it, but it was rebuilt by Jerobo'am II.

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* 1 Sam. vi. 9, et passim. † Deut. xxvii. 12, 13.
‡ Gen. xxxiv. 25, et passim.

Near it was Jacob's Well, where our Saviour discoursed with the woman of Samaria*.

Q. Is this city now in existence?

A. Yes, it is called Naplo'sa, and is a mean place, but very populous, and the residence of a Turkish pasha. Jacob's sepulchre and well are still shewn.

Q. What was Tap'puah, Kib'zaim and Shiloh?

A. Tap'puah was a royal city, in the north eastern extremity of the tribe near the Jordan, and Kib'zaim, a Levitical city in the south. Shi'loh, a little to the north of Kib'zaim, was the place where the tabernacle was set up, and the ark kept till the time of Samuel.

Q. Describe Beth'ho'ron, the Upper and Nether.

A. Beth'horon the Upper was a Levitical city, near the centre of the tribe, and Beth'horon the Nether was seated on a hill, about twelve miles farther south. Here the Lord rained great stones on the army of the Canaanites†.

Q. What was Ge'zer?

A. Ge'zer was a royal and Levitical city, conquered by Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and given as a present to his daughter, Solomon's wife ‡. In the days of St. Jerome it still existed under the name of Gaza'ra. A little to the east was Gob, the scene of a great battle between Israel and the Philistines §.

Q. Describe Mo'din and Jop'pa.

A. Mo'din was a respectable city, on the south-west border of the tribe, four miles east of Jop'pa, and remarkable as the residence and burial-place

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* John, iv. † Josh. x. 11. ‡ 1 Kings, ix. 16. § 2 Sam. xxi. 19.

of the Mac'cabees. Jop'pa was an ancient town, supposed to have been built by Ja'phet, and in the time of Solomon was the port to Jerusalem *.

Q. What events are recorded to have taken place at Jop'pa?

A. Jop'pa was often the residence of Peter, and here he raised Dor'cas or Tab'itha, to life. In this city likewise he had the vision of the great vessel let down from heaven †.

Q. What are the present name and state of Jop'pa?

A. Jop'pa is now called Jaf'fa, and stands on an eminence close to the sea-shore. It is defended by a stone wall, with towers alternately square and round, but it was easily taken by the French army under Buo'naparte, and great part of its garrison put to death.

Q. Give an account of Antip'atris.

A. Antip'atris, seven miles north-east of Jop'pa, was originally called Ca'phar Sa'ba, but received the before-mentioned name from Herod, in honour of his father An'tipas. It stood in a pleasant valley nearly surrounded by mountains.

Q. What was Lasha'ron?

A. Lasha'ron, Sha'ron, or Sa'ron, was a town a little north-east of Antip'atris, situated in a beautiful valley, celebrated for its roses and its wines. To the south-east of Lasha'ron was Tim'nath-se'rah, the inheritance and burial-place of Joshua, (xxxiv. 30.)

A. What other place in this tribe deserves notice?

A. In the north-east, on the borders of Manas-

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* 2 Chron. ii. 16. † Acts, x.

seh was Mich'mash, where Jonathan and his armour-bearer slew numbers of the Philistines *.

CHAP. XXV.—*Dan.*

Q. What were the boundaries of the tribe of Dan?

A. Dan was bounded on the north by E'phraim, on the west by Judah, on the south by Sim'eon, and on the east by the Mediterranean Sea.

Q. Were there many places of note in the tribe of Dan?

A. Yes, the cities and towns of Dan were, Lyd'da, Nai'oth, Ra'mah, or Arimathe'a, Tim'nath, Ai'jalon, Zo'rah, Esh'taol, El'tekeh, Gib'bethon, Jab'neth, or Jam'nia and Dan, La'ish, or Le'sham.

Q. What deserves notice of Lyd'da?

A. Lyd'da, called by the Greeks Dios'polis, was a city of considerable note, about eleven miles east by south of Jop'pa. Here Peter cured a man that had been sick of the palsy eight years †. The place at present on its site is called Lo'da.

Q. What is remarkable of Nai'oth and Ra'mah?

Q. Nai'oth, about two miles south of Lyd'da was the place to which David and Samuel retired from the fury of Saul ‡. Ramah, the birth-place of that prophet, was about four miles south-west of Nai'oth, and is supposed to have been the same with Arimathe'a, the city of Joseph, who piously interred our Saviour after his crucifixion.

Q. Does it still exist?

A. Yes, it is still a tolerably large town, under the government of the Pasha of Ga'za, much re-

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* 1 Sam. xiv. 13. 20. † Acts, ix. 32, et passim.
‡ 1 Sam. xix.

sorted to by pilgrims to Jerusalem. All the doors in this town are not above three feet high, to prevent the audacious Arabs from riding into the houses.

Q. What events render Tim'nath an interesting place?

A. Tim'nath, now called Thanatha, was the place to which Judah went to visit his sheep-shearers *. At this place dwelt a woman with whom Samson fell in love. Among the vineyards of Timnath he killed a lion, with no other weapon than his hands †.

Q. For what was Ai'jalon remarkable?

A. Ai'jalon, a Levitical city, was situated on the eastern border of the tribe, in the valley of the same name, rendered memorable by the miracle performed there by Joshua, who caused the sun and moon to stand still until he had avenged himself on his enemies ‡.

Q. What may be observed of Zo'rah and Esh'taol?

A. Zo'rah and Esh'taol were cities in the south-east of this tribe, from whence the troops were sent that took the city of La'ish, afterwards called Dan and Cæsare'a Philip'pi §. Zo'rah was the birth-place of Samson, and near Esh'taol was the camp of Dan ||.

Q. For what was El'tekeh remarkable?

A. El'tekeh or El'tekon, was a Levitical city, situated not far from Le'hi, where Samson slew a thousand of the Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass.

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* Gen xxxviii. 12. † Judges, xiv. 5, 6. * Josh. x. 12, 13. § Judges, xviii. 11. || Judges xiii. 25.

Q. Give some account of Gib'bethon ?

A. Gib'bethon, five miles north of El'tekeh, was a Levitical city, but it continued in the possession of the Philistines for many ages after the conquest of Canaan, as we read that it was besieged by Nadab king of Israel *.

Q. What was Jam'nia ?

A. Jam'nia, now called Yab'na, was a city on the shore of the Mediterranean, nine miles south of Joppa. Here Ju'das Maccabæ'us burnt part of the Syrian fleet. It was afterwards the see of a bishop.

Q. Describe Dan or La'ish ?

A. Dan, La'ish, or Le'shem, was a city on the north-west part of the tribe of Manasseh, near the springs of Jordan, but conquered by the Danites, who gave it their own name. It was enlarged and beautified by Philip the tetrarch, and called Cæsare'a Philip'pi in honour of Augus'tus.

Q. Were not the Philis'tines possessed of many cities here ?

A. Yes, they possessed Gath, Ash'dod, Ek'ron, and several others, but they have already been described in our account of that people, chap. viii.

CHAP. XXVI.—*Simeon.*

Q. NAME the boundaries of the tribe of Sim'eon ?

A. The territories of Sim'eon were bounded on the north by Dan, on the east by Judah, on the south by the Amal'ekites, and on the west by the land of the Philistines and the Mediterranean Sea.

Q. What places of note were in the tribe of Sim'eon ?

* 1 Kings, xv. 27.

A. Ain or A'shan, Ge'der, Beer'sheba, Hor'mah, Bethuli'a, Zik'lag, &c.

Q. What was Ain?

A. Ain or A'shan, was a Levitical city, in the north-east part of the tribe, but presents nothing remarkable.

Q. Describe Ge'dor.

A. Ge'dor was a royal city, on the borders of Judah, and by some esteemed as belonging to that tribe.

Q. What may be observed of Beer'sheba?

A. Beer'sheba being in the southern part of Canaan, and Dan in the northern; it was customary, when speaking of the utmost length of the country, to say "from Dan even to Beer'sheba." Here Abraham sojourned and planted a grove.

Q. Is any important event connected with Hor'mah?

A. Yes, Hor'mah was a royal city, in the southern border of this tribe, remarkable for the defeat of the Israelites by the Amal'ekites, when they presumed to go to battle against the command of the Lord *.

Q. Was Bethuli'a in this tribe?

A. Bethuli'a, celebrated for the siege it endured, and for its unexpected deliverance by Judith, who slew Holofer'nes, the enemy's general, is by some placed in this tribe, but the propriety of so doing is doubtful, as no clue to its situation is given in the Apoc'rypha, where alone it is mentioned †.

Q. What was remarkable of Ziklag?

A. Ziklag, though nearly in the centre of the tribe of Simeon, belonged to the Philistines, till

* Numb. xiv. 45. † Judith, xiii. 6, 7, 8.

A'chish their king gave it to David *. During David's absence with the army of the Philistines, the Amal'ekites made an incursion, burnt Ziklag, and carried away the inhabitants captive.

Q. Was their attempt ultimately successful?

A. No, David pursued and overtook them a little beyond the brook Besor. Falling on them unawares, he put them nearly all to the sword, and recovered his people and much booty.

Q. What cities of the Philistines were within the limits of this tribe?

A. Ge'rar, Ga'za, and As'kelon.

CHAP. XXVII.—*Benjamin.*

Q. How were the territories of Benjamin bounded?

A. Benjamin was bounded on the north by E'phraim, on the east by Reuben, on the south by Ju'dah, and on the west by part of Ju'dah and Dan.

Q. What places of note are found in this tribe?

A. JERU'SALEM, Jer'icho, Gil'gal, Oph'rah, Al'mon, Gib'eah, An'athoth, Gib'eon, Kir'jath-je'arim, Ge'ba, or Ga'ba, Beth'el, and Ai.

Q. Give a brief account of Jeru'salem.

A. Jeru'salem, at first called Sa'lem, afterwards Je'bus, and then, the city of David, was the metropolis of the kingdom of Judah, and situated partly within the boundary of that tribe. It was built on hills, the principal of which were Si'on, A'cra, Mori'ah, and Bez'etha.

Q. By what magnificent buildings was it adorned?

A. The Scriptures mention the palaces of David

* 1 Sam. xxvii. 6.

and Solomon, and the house of Millo; there were likewise in after-times the palaces of Herod and of the Roman governor; but the glory of Jeru'salem was the noble temple built by Solomon, rebuilt, (after its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar) by Zerub'babel, and enlarged and beautified by Herod the Great *.

Q. Give some account of the events connected with Jeru'salem.

A. Jeru'salem was taken and plundered by Shis'hak, king of Egypt, by Jeho'ash, king of Israel, and several times by Nebuchadnez'zar, king of Babylon, who at last destroyed the temple, and carried away the inhabitants into captivity. At the end of seventy years, the temple was rebuilt, but with diminished splendour.

Q. Did it again fall under the power of invaders?

A. Yes, Alexander the Great, Ptol'emy, Anti'ochus Epiph'anes and Pompey, successively took possession of it. But its final overthrow was accomplished by Titus, son of Vespa'sian, the Roman emperor, who, after a bloody siege, in which the factions within caused greater calamities than

* This temple was finished, A. M. 3000. It stood on Mount Moriah, and consisted of an outer enclosure 250 yards square, called the court of the Gentiles. Within this was another enclosure, called the outer court, the east area of which was denominated the court of the women, because they were not allowed to enter farther. Beyond this was the inner court, where was the altar of burnt-offering; and next was the temple, properly so called, most magnificently adorned with carving, gilding, &c., and divided into two parts, the first called the Holy Place, the other the Holy of Holies, into which none dared to enter, except the high-priest, once a year. In this sacred place was the ark with the mercy-seat.

the hostile army without, took it, and completely destroyed it, A.D. 70.

Q. What is the appearance of modern Jeru'salem?

A. Jeru'salem stands on an elevated rocky ground, and is about four miles in circumference; the walls and buildings are in tolerable repair, and near the entrance-gate is a very ancient castle called David's tower. The sites of many remarkable places mentioned in Scripture, are still shewn*. The mosque of O'mar is one of the most magnificent in the Turkish dominions.

Q. What remarkable places are in the vicinity of Jeru'salem?

A. A little to the east of Jeru'salem are the Mount of Olives, and the villages of Beth'phagé†, and Beth'any; and, to the south, the valley of Hin'nom.

Q. Describe Jer'icho?

A. Jer'icho, or the city of Palm Trees, nineteen miles north-east of Jeru'salem, was one of the chief cities of Jude'a. It was totally destroyed by Joshua, but rebuilt by Hi'el the Beth'elite in the days of Ahab ‡. It stood in a very pleasant valley, but the water with which it was supplied was exceedingly bad till Eli'sha healed the spring

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* Over the spot which contained the tomb of our Saviour, a magnificent church with a dome, was built, and called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but it was destroyed by fire in 1810.

† According to Walker, this word has three syllables.

‡ 1 Kings, xvi. 34.

from whence it issued *. Jer'icho is at present a filthy Arab village.

Q. What was Gil'gal?

A. Gil'gal, about two miles east of Jer'icho, was remarkable as the place where Josh'ua encamped after passing the Jordan. Here the manna ceased, the ark rested for some time, and twelve stones were set up as a memorial of these events. A considerable city was afterwards built on the spot.

Q. What may be observed of Oph'rah and Al'mon?

A. Oph'rah, three miles south-east of Jer'icho, was the native place of Gideon. Al'mon or Al'ameth, five miles south-west of it, was a Levitical city of no particular importance.

Q. Give some account of Gib'eah and An'athoth?

A. Gib'eah was a royal city, near the centre of the tribe, celebrated as the birth-place of Saul, and afterwards the metropolis of his kingdom. An'athoth, four miles south-west of it, was a Levitical city, the native place of the prophet Jeremi'ah.

Q. What was Gibeon?

A. Gib'eon, a Levitical city, eight miles west of Gib'eah, is remarkable for the stratagem practised by its inhabitants on Joshua to escape destruction†. Here the sun stood still at the command of that chief ‡. Three miles south was Em'maus, where

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* 2 Kings, ii. 19, 20, 21, 22.

† Josh. ix. 3, *et passim*.

‡ Josh. x. 12, 13.

Jesus made himself known to two of his disciples after his resurrection.

Q. What other places of note were in this vicinity?

A. A little south-west of Em'maus was Miz'peh, where Samuel dwelt: one mile south, between Miz'peh and Shen, Samuel placed a great stone, and called it Ebene'zer, as a memorial of a victory over the Philistines.

Q. Give some account of Kir'jath-jea'rim and Ge'ba?

A. Kir'jath-jea'rim and Ge'ba were Levitical cities, in the western border of the tribe, but deserving of no particular notice.

Q. What may be observed of Beth'el and A'i.

A. Beth'el was a royal city, built on the spot where Jacob had a vision of the ladder that reached to heaven *. Here Jerobo'am set up one of his golden calves. A'i was a royal city, before which the Israelites were smitten on account of the sin of A'chan†. It was destroyed and made a desolation for ever.

CHAP. XXIX.—*Judah.*

Q. How were the territories of Ju'dah bounded?

A. The territories of Ju'dah were bounded, on the north, by Dan and Benjamin; on the east, by the Dead or Salt Sea; on the south, by E'dom, and on the west by Dan and Sim'eon.

Q. What were the principal cities of Judah?

* Gen. xxviii. 10. *et passim.*

† Josh. vii. 20.

A. Kir'jath-ba'al, Beth'shemesh, Makkĕ'dah, Jar'muth, Adul'lam, Beth'lehem, A'phĕk, He'pher, Zebo'im, Juttah, Ho'lon, Ma'on, Haz'ezon-ta'mar, Be'la, Esh'temoh, A'rad, Jattir, Kir'jath-se'pher or De'bir, Kir'jath-arba or Heb'ron, Eg'lon, La'chish, and Lib'nah.

Q. Give some account of Kir'jath-ba'al and Beth'shemesh?

A. Kir'jath-ba'al and Beth'shemesh were two Levitical cities, in the north-west part of the tribe, to the latter of which the kine voluntarily brought the ark out of the land of the Philistines. The inhabitants rejoiced at the acquisition of this sacred vessel; but, for presumptuously looking into it, no less than fifty thousand three score and ten of their number were slain*.

Q. What may be observed of Makke'dah, Jar'muth, and Adul'lam?

A. Makke'dah, Jar'muth, and Adullam, were three royal cities, lying south-east of each other, about four miles apart. Near Adul'lam was a cave, to which David retired, and where he was joined by his own family and many valiant men, who made him their captain †. A little to the north-east of Adul'lam, was the town of Sho'chŏh, near which the Philistines pitched their camp, and David obtained a conquest over Goli'ath, their champion.

Q. For what was Beth'lehem remarkable?

A. Beth'lehem, called also Eph'ratah and Beth'-lehem Judah, four miles east of Adul'lam, though a little city, is illustrious as the birth-place of

* 1 Sam. vi. 12, 19. † 1 Sam. xxii. 1.

David, and of our blessed Saviour. A little to the north was the tomb of Rachel, the favourite wife of Jacob.

Q. What is the present state of Beth'lehem?

A. Beth'lehem is an inconsiderable place, but much frequented by pilgrims. Many real or pretended curiosities are shewn here; as the pools of Solomon; the chapel of the holy manger; the grotto of the Virgin, whither she fled from the persecution of Herod; the field where the shepherds were watching their flocks, when visited by the angels; &c.

Q. Describe A'phek, He'pher, and Zebo'im.

A. A'phek and He'pher were royal cities in the north-east part of this tribe; but nothing important is known respecting them. Zebo'im was one of the cities of the plain that were destroyed by fire from heaven*; but it appears that a small place of that name stood afterwards on the borders of the salt sea.

Q. Give some particulars of Jut'tah, and its vicinity.

A. Jut'tah was a levitical city, in the eastern part of the tribe: to the north of it was the wilderness of Ziph; and to the south, the wildernesses of Ca'rmel and Ma'on, the resort of David, during his banishment from the court of Saul. Ho'lon was a levitical and refugial city of no note.

Q. What deserves notice of En'gedi and Bela?

A. En'gedi, anciently called Ha'zezon-ta'mar, was a small place on the border of the Dead Sea, much frequented by David. Be'la or Zo'ar, was

* Gen. xix. 24, 25.

one of the cities of the plain devoted to destruction, but saved at the request of Lot*.

Q. What were Esh'temoh, Ar'ad, and Jat'tir?

A. Esh'temoh was a levitical city to the west of En'gedi; A'rad was a royal city, eight miles south-west of Esh'temoh; and Jat'tir was a Levitical city, seven miles north of A'rad: but neither of them presents any thing worthy of record.

Q. Were not De'bir and He'bron celebrated cities?

A. Yes; De'bir, called also Kir'jath†-Se'pher, was a royal and levitical city, in the western part of the tribe; and He'bron, or Kir'jath-Ar'ba, was a royal, Levitical, and refugial city, ten miles east by north from it: this latter was rendered illustrious by the sojourn of Abraham there, and by its having been the royal city during David's reign over Judah alone.

Q. What were Eg'lon, La'chish, and Li'bnah?

A. Eg'lon and La'chish were royal cities, in the north-west part of the tribe; the latter of which was besieged by Sennac'herib, king of Assyria. Li'bnah was a royal, levitical, and refugial city, four miles north of La'chish; in common with which it endured the horrors of a siege, by the forces of Sennac'herib.

CHAP. XXX.

Judea after the return of the Jews from Babylon.

Q. DID the country of Judea retain the ancient divisions after the return of the Jews from captivity?

* Gen. xix. 21, 22. † Kirjath signifies *the city*.

A. No; It was divided into four tetrarchies: Gal′ilee, Sama′ria, Jude′a, and Peræ′a; and two smaller portions, called Trachoni′tis and Iture′a.

Q. What was Gal′ilee?

A. Gal′ilee was divided into two parts; Upper and Lower. Upper Gal′ilee included the lands of Ash′er and Naph′tali; and Lower Gal′ilee those of Zeb′ulon and Is′sachar.

Q. What was the province of Sama′ria?

A. The province of Sama′ria comprehended the tribes of Eph′raim and Manas′seh west of the Jordan.

Q. Was Judea confined to the tribe of Judah?

A. No; Judea comprehended the territories of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, Simeon, Dan, and the country of the Philistines.

Q. What was the situation of Peræ′a?

A. Peræ′a was situated to the east of Jordan, and included the territories of Reu′ben, Gad, and Manas′seh, east of Jordan.

Q. Describe Trachoni′tis and Iture′a.

A. Trachon′itis and Iture′a were to the north of Peræ′a; the latter included Decap′olis, so called from its possessing ten cities.

Q. Under whose dominion is Pal′estine or Jude′a at present?

A. Under that of the Turks, and is divided into two governments, that of Jerusalem to the west; and of Adgeloun to the east of the Jordan.

THE END.